

Hello friends & neighbors,

Our economy is on the upswing after a difficult year, but we're far from out of the woods—that's why Illinois is launching Back to Business (B2B), a new \$250 million small business relief program. And there's something else we can all do to help our small business community bounce back: get vaccinated. It's key to bringing down our COVID-19 positivity rates and making a full return to the places and activities we enjoyed before the pandemic.

#### **Back 2 Business**

The B2B program, administered by the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, will award eligible small businesses one-time grants of up to \$150,000 to cover operation costs, staff payroll and other expenses in an effort to make up for losses sustained due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In order to qualify for a grant, a business must have made \$20 million or less in revenue in 2019 and be able to demonstrate a reduction in revenue in 2020. Applications are now open at: <a href="https://lilinois.gov/DCEO">lllinois.gov/DCEO</a>.



# **Senior Mix and Mingle**

This Friday, August 27th from 3 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. my office will be hosting a Senior Mix and Mingle! This event will be a great way for seniors in the community to connect and socialize amongst each other and further connect to our office and senior advisory committee. There will be music, a craft, and activities that will allow seniors to have a good time and relax in good company! Snacks and beverages will also be served. Please call our office with any questions at (630) 326-9319. If attending please submit song requests using this google form:

https://forms.gle/hNWGggwsXi9sccMC7

## **Community Shredding Event**

This Saturday from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. our office will be partnering with Representative Maura Hirshauer to host a community shredding event at Leman Middle School in West Chicago! You can bring up to 3 boxes or 2 paper bags of documents.

## **West Chicago Food Festival**

West Chicago's annual Food Festival will take place this Saturday, August 28th from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. There will be food tricks, live music, and more! For more information, click <a href="here">here</a>. Bring your folding chairs/blankets and enjoy the live music and food.

#### **Batavia Windmill Fest**

This weekend is also Batavia's Windmill Fest, taking place at 151 N Island Avenue, Batavia, IL. Activities will take place both Saturday the 28th and Sunday the 29th from noon - 6 p.m. For a full schedule click here.

## **Redistricting Hearing in Aurora**

The Illinois House Redistricting Committee is set to host a hearing on August 29th at 10 a.m. at the Phillips Park Visitors' Center in Aurora, Illinois. To submit written testimonies, map plans, or testify before the committee email redistrictingcommittee@senatedem.ilga.gov.

## **Professional Women's Clothes Drive**

If you are planning on attending our WOW event next coming Wednesday please consider donating some gently used professional clothes! We will be hosting a clothes drive at St Andrew's Lutheran Church in West Chicago on September 13th - 15th.



## The Autism Hero Project's Gala

## What's Next?

My staff and I look forward to hearing from you! I encourage you to reach out to us at 630-326-9319 (English), 630-326-9419 (Spanish) or

constituentservices@senatorvilla.com

Stay cool!

Karina Villa, MSW State Senator, 25th District