

Untitled

Commission Meeting

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Comments:

Tonight the County Commission considers a resolution to address a crisis that the liberal magazine Atlantic Monthly calls a "small business die-off" that may be irreversible. The resolution calls on New Mexico's governor to reframe state guidelines for businesses to operate during the pandemic – basically eliminating the "essential business" criteria and also allowing for local variations in COVID-19 controls.

This is not just a nostalgic longing for a return to a small town main street economy. It's a life and death dilemma that New Mexico and Sandoval County face as many small businesses have been forced to close in recent weeks due to COVID-19 control measures. Only "essential" businesses, large and small, have been allowed to remain open.

What struck me most about the resolution is its respectful tone to the governor and its acknowledgement of the need to continue blocking the spread of the coronavirus. The resolution is well researched and well argued. It is a simple truth that one size does not fit all.

That said, the virus knows no city, county or state boundaries. Today's safe-haven communities can explode overnight into virus hot spots. And in the words of New York governor Andrew Cuomo: "A human life is priceless."

Is it too late to stop the "small business die-off"? We must try. Or the American economy will be changed forever. And not without an unacceptable loss of human hope and self-reliance.