**Public Statement Regarding the Howell Melon Fest**

To: Howell Area Parks and Recreation; Mayor Nick Proctor; City Manager Erv Suida; Howell City Council; Howell Police Department; Livingston Daily; WHMI

**From: Downtown Howell Small Businesses**

Date: August 2, 2021

RE: Melon Festival Civic Event

The following downtown businesses in Howell stand together to share our collective voice with the City of Howell officials, the Police Department, Howell Area Parks and Recreation, and the community regarding the potential decision to cancel this year’s 61st Howell Melon Festival.

We are a unified group of downtown small business owners who strongly disagree with the decision to cancel any part of this great downtown event, including early closures of the festival tent. We respectfully ask that you give downtown businesses the opportunity to be heard regarding this decision.

The Melon Fest is the biggest weekend for downtown shops and restaurants, but its economic benefits reach far beyond the downtown. The negative impact that canceling the Melon Fest would have on our local small businesses, including local melon farmers, especially after the past year and a half of lost revenue due to Covid-19, would be significant.

We hope that we can come together as a community to agree on a decision that will benefit all the businesses who are involved with the Melon Fest, and who are only just beginning to rebound. We all want Howell to continue to grow and thrive, and we believe that unity and diversity is the key to a harmonious and successful Howell Community.

Uptown Coffeehouse Main Street Winery Finding Roots

Black Iron Coffee Roasters Simply Charming Too Le Boutique

Carriage House Chocolate Boutique Like Mother Like Daughter

Howell Western Wear Jenna Kator Collection Made2Inspire

Historic Howell Theatre Kokopelli’s Korner Dragonfly Emporium

Vibology Weaver’s Kava House