



Gov. Kate Brown sat down with masked Oregon State troopers Friday who just two days earlier went into a Corvallis coffee shop without face coverings despite her statewide order to wear masks to prevent spreading the coronavirus. After Friday's meeting, Brown said the troopers pledged to do better and she didn't want to judge or fire anybody over one mistake.

Troopers Make Peace with Governor

Gov. Kate Brown sat down with Oregon State troopers on Friday just two days after they were recorded on surveillance video going into a Corvallis coffee shop without face coverings despite her statewide order to wear masks to prevent spreading the coronavirus.

One of those troopers reportedly openly questioned the governor's order and is on leave, but

the others met with the governor at Mahonia Hall, her residence in Salem.

According to reports from The Oregonian/OregonLive, the trooper went into the Allan Bros. Coffee & Tea shop on Wednesday last week without a face covering and told an employee, "Governor Brown has no authority to take our civil liberties. We aren't going to

wear masks."

On Thursday, both the governor and Oregon State Police Superintendent Travis Hampton called the reported exchange at the coffee shop unacceptable.

"Let me crystal clear: No one is above the law. Superintendent Hampton and I expect the Oregon State Police to lead by example," said Brown.

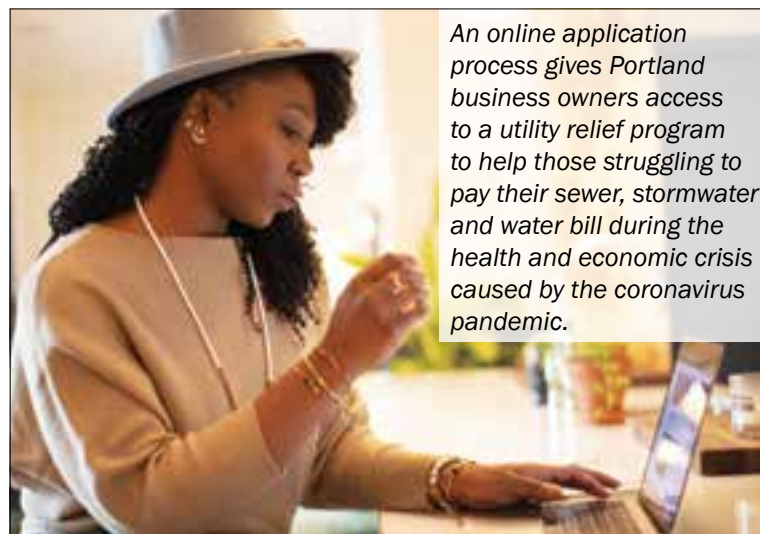
COVID Utility Relief Applications Due

Program geared to struggling businesses

Applications open Wednesday, July 8, for a program offering discounts on sewer, stormwater and water bills for small businesses in Portland struggling financial hardships during the ongoing public health and economic crisis.

The application deadline is July 22 and no applications will be accepted after that date, officials said.

The Portland Water Bureau and Bureau of Environmental Services have pledged \$1 million in financial support for small businesses impacted by the coronavirus pandemic, building on the work done by Prosper Portland, the city's



An online application process gives Portland business owners access to a utility relief program to help those struggling to pay their sewer, stormwater and water bill during the health and economic crisis caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

economic development agency.

Credits for city of Portland utility bills are expected to assist between 200 and 300 small businesses and will range between \$1,000 and \$10,000.

The applications will be pri-

oritized using a racial equity and vulnerability lens. Small businesses are invited to apply by visiting portlandoregon.gov/water/smallbiz. For more information, you can also call the city's customer service staff at 503-823-7770.

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