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Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno Applauds Resilience of New Jersey's Small Businesses in Aftermath of Hurricane Sandy

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Tags: [Hurricane Sandy](#)

Zack's Oak Bar and Restaurant Reopens Thanks to Determination and Volunteers

Trenton, NJ – Highlighting that small local business in areas hardest hit by Hurricane Sandy are open and actively doing business, Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno today visited Zack's Oak Bar and Restaurant in Hoboken, and encouraged New Jersey residents to demonstrate their support for businesses in these towns. Like many businesses in Hoboken and throughout the state, flood water and power outages from Hurricane Sandy forced the fifteen year old businesses to close for several days, causing lost business, inventory and equipment.

"Zack's owners worked hard and were able to reopen their restaurant just six days after Hurricane Sandy struck. Like the other businesses I've visited, Zack's determination defines New Jersey's small business community," said Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno. "It's critical that we support small businesses like Zack's and educate everyone that businesses in towns hardest hit by Hurricane Sandy are open. I encourage everyone to show their support by visiting our small businesses whenever to help in the rebuilding and recovery process."

Zack's Oak Bar & Restaurant opened in 1996 and is owned by two married couples, Sheila and Mark Nisler and Amelia and Gerry Farrelly. Zack's is the third of three bars and restaurants the couples have opened and managed in Hoboken.

"Our basement was full of water, and because of the water surge that came into the area the streets near our restaurant had about two to three feet of water," said Sheila Nisler, "Once the water receded after about two days we were able to get back in and really clean up the restaurant."

Zack's was able to reopen its door in six days thanks to its employees.

"It was amazing because we hadn't actually called our employees," said Nisler. "They called us asking what they can do. We were so lucky that they came in and volunteered to get us open."

Nisler is happy that Zack's is back in business and says it's important for people to know that Hoboken is back in business.

"We're grateful to have reopened but it is important for people to know that Hoboken is back in business, too. The pictures in the news were devastating and it looked like Hoboken was never going to come back, but we're open and a lot of other businesses are open, too."

In the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, Governor Christie has made assisting affected New Jersey small businesses a priority. In addition to initiating a statewide business impact assessment in collaboration with the state's leading business groups, the Christie Administration worked with the Small Business Administration to secure nearly \$189 million in loans for thousands of homes and small businesses, and provided lines of credit through the state's Economic Development Authority for businesses awaiting insurance reimbursement, grants for job training, and benefits for displaced workers. New Jersey was also the recipient of a \$15.6 million National Emergency Grant from the U.S. Department of Labor to hire unemployed state residents to assist with clean-up and recovery efforts.

Businesses are encouraged to call the state's Business Action Center at 1-866-534-7789 for assistance and information on the many business advocacy services available through the state. Information is also available by visiting the state's business portal at www.newjerseybusiness.gov.

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