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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE July 17, 2020

Visit Canton to Promote "Stay Safe in Stark County" Business Pledge Partners

Stark County's Convention & Visitors' Bureau partners with Strengthening Stark and the Stark County Health Department to promote local businesses that pledge to follow the Ohio Health Department Guidelines for Responsible RestartOhio.

Stark County, Ohio – Visit Canton, the Stark County Convention & Visitors' Bureau, is showcasing local travel economy businesses that take a "Stay Safe in Stark County" business pledge. The pledge is a commitment to the Ohio Health Department's Responsible RestartOhio guidelines. In addition to abiding by the guidelines, businesses must also make their health safety protocols available for consumers to find online and agree to the removal of the "Stay Safe in Stark County" designation if found to be non-compliant.

Visit Canton's President Allyson Bussey said, "The goal is to help residents and visitors find options for things to do and places to visit where they can be confident that protocols are being followed to help keep customers and employees healthy and to aid in preventing the spread of COVID-19."

"Consumer confidence directly impacts a business's ability to remain open. If customers are not comfortable, they will not visit. Implementing this program is not a matter of politics it's a matter of economics." said Bussey.

The <u>Stay Safe in Stark County</u> landing page lists local tourism industry partner businesses under categories eat, stay, play, shop, and event venues. Each listing links to an expanded description of the business with a direct link to their COVID-19 protocols. The Stay Safe in Stark County page also provides a link to the Stark County, Alliance City, Canton City, and Massillon City Health Departments' <u>RestartStark</u> resources, including the online form to submit questions or complaints regarding businesses not adhering to the state's guidelines.

Visit Canton will promote the page to locals and visitors via multiple platforms including on Visit Canton's website, social media, welcome messages at the Akron-Canton Airport, and a network of ExploreBoards located in several hotels and attractions across the county. Strengthening Stark, a community-wide movement of residents, business, government, nonprofits and philanthropists who share a vision for a vibrant, growing county, has also partnered with Visit Canton to promote the Stay Safe in Stark County program.

Stark County businesses that are open to customers and following Responsible RestartOhio guidelines can find the online pledge form on <u>Stay Safe in Stark County</u>.

About Visit Canton:

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The Stark County Convention & Visitors' Bureau, d.b.a. Visit Canton, is funded by a lodging tax administered through the Stark County Commissioners. The organization's mission is to promote travel to Stark County and to facilitate operations that support the travel and tourism industry in Stark County.