

May 28, 2020

Letter to Montgomery County Council and County Executive
From Kathleen Reitz, 17833 Bowie Mill Road, Derwood

Dear Council,

I am very distressed with the way the county has handed this lockdown. While I am grateful that you are at least considering easing up on the restrictions, I see that despite your protestations to the contrary that they are arbitrary. You are destroying the dreams of thousands of people.

I understand that most of the devastation has happened in nursing homes. Yes, we know that the virus came from Wuhan China and did not arise spontaneously in a nursing home. We don't have to be doctors to realize that. Very little was done at the outset to protect these poor people and to keep this particular vulnerable and captive audience out of the hospitals. I presume by now you have been able to successfully quarantine infected staff and their contacts. If not then shame on you.

In my career as a commercial real estate broker, I helped many people fulfill their dreams to own their own businesses. Now I see those same people in a fight for their lives and not because they are worried about getting sick. It breaks my heart especially since most of it is totally unnecessary.

Here are the ways your proposed rules have been and will continue to be unfair:

1. Anything that is sold in a grocery store, a hardware store, big category killer stores like Walmart, Home Depot and Lowes, should be available by other vendors INSIDE their stores. Most of these little businesses did NOT have a big on line presence. Tile shop, flooring shop, many others.
2. Outdoor restaurant seating? Are you going to relax codes when it comes to permitting for this sort of thing so they can set up outside even when they haven't before? Or is this just something that will favor only the big chains?
3. Outdoor sports: Why restrict them at all? Fresh air and sunshine! I play senior softball and age wise I am in the elderly category. I would not hesitate for a second to go out and play our normal league games. Our mental health is at stake too, you know. There is NO science supporting the idea of contagion in outdoor sports. Probably there is very little supporting it for indoor sports either in a high ceilinged large air flow area like a gymnasium. I have seen no evidence anywhere to support this.

What is done is done regarding the disaster in the nursing homes, the financial disaster caused by illogical shutdowns that continued long after the original goals were met. The constant moving of the goal posts has destroyed our confidence in you as competent leaders. We strive to understand what is going on and have decided that your cure is worse than the disease. It is tempting to ascribe motives to your actions other than "it's for our own good". That's because we have had damaging epidemics before and never committed economic suicide while fighting it. Some of the potential motives are not very flattering. Either way, you have your knee on the neck of the American spirit. Stop it now.

Sincerely, Kathleen Reitz