

Members of the County Council,

I am writing this letter to express my concerns with the pending actions you are here meeting about this morning. I am a member of the Professional Bowlers Association and have bowled at Bowl America Gaithersburg since the day it opened and also run a my pro shop Bogans Bowling Supply there. Our bowling center is in the neighborhood of 45000 square feet and currently we are allowed to have 50 people in it which alone has crippled this business as well as many other businesses in the same situation. Changing the order to allow places like ours to have 25 people will decimate those businesses and is a step in the wrong direction, especially when the positivity rate in the county is as low as it is. Currently our bowling center (not bowling alley) under this order is classified the same as a restaurant which is incorrect, it should be classified as a sporting venue. While not currently in the Olympics, bowling is recognized as a sport by the IOC and has been considered for adoption to the Olympic Games. Professional bowlers are watched on ESPN and FOX Sports regularly, thousands of college athletes including my daughter attend school on bowling scholarships and bowl in Collegiate NCAA tournaments and millions of people across this country bowl. Coronavirus has decimated the bowling industry and due to restrictions put in place many of these small businesses have closed their doors for good which is tragic for those business owners and the communities they support. Bowl America Gaithersburg has done an exceptional job at providing a clean and safe environment and are diligent at following protocols put in place. Social distancing guidelines have been implemented, employees temperatures are checked upon coming in for work and logged, sanitized bowling balls are distributed to our customers after they have been assigned a lane and are sanitized again once they are returned when that customer is done bowling and staff sanitize the area those bowlers were at once they are done. Our capacity should be based on our building size and not that of a restaurant and I implore that you make the appropriate modifications to the order so that our center can continue to function for our bowling community.

Thank you for your time, Jack Bogan