

November 4, 2020

RE: White Oak Lanes and Pending Restrictions

ATTN: Marc Elrich and other Board members

To whom it may concern,

I am a long-time patron of White Oak Lanes located in Montgomery County. The pending restrictions being discussed today could impact the life of White Oak. The bowling alley has been in business since 1959 and changed hands within the last 5 years. The new owner has faced multiple challenges to date including liquor license, keno/lottery sales, and COVID 19. COVID has been hard on everyone to say the least, and I understand the difficulty you all are faced with in determining what will reduce the exposure to COVID for all Montgomery county residence. In making your decision, I want to provide you with some things to think about. White Oak bowling alley is a wonderful establishment who has a maximum capacity of 256 patrons and associates. Currently, since COVID starts and they could reopen, White oak has operated at 50% or 50 people, whichever is less. To reduce business to 20 percent of operation has been a huge financial burden to the organization. Bowlers are donating, providing cleaning supplies, wearing masks, using the sanitizer provided, and social distancing. The owner conducts temperature checks for all patrons and employees upon entering and will deny services to those with fevers. The owner has taken the proper steps to ensure the require sanitizing of lanes is being done prior to new customers taking the lane. He is doing all the steps possible to ensure our safety and to date, there has been 0 confirmed cases from any league bowler or patron. This business doesn't have loans or grants since they have all be exhausted, this organization doesn't have years of savings, since it was recently purchased, this organization doesn't stand a chance unless you allow them to continue to operate at 50 bowlers, and even then, they need help. They have bills which amount to 26000 a month, which means they need to earn 1000 a day. That isn't happening with a 50 person maximum. This is the last duckpin alley in Montgomery county. Glenmont is gone, wheaton triangle, and so many more. Don't be the reason another business goes under. I understand these are unknown times, but look at the facts, they are operating under capacity and barley surviving. Please, stop punishing the businesses that you all swore to help, don't reduce to 25, that would make this business extinct.

Please call me with any concerns,

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