

Order 122-20 regarding limitations on businesses specifically bowling centers.

Dear, County Council

My name is Michael Marquette, and I am a Medically Retired Veteran, I was in the military for 15 years with multiple combat deployments. I have had lots of difficulty dealing with my medical conditions (Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), PTSD, Major Depression Disorder (MDD), etc.) during COVID-19 restrictions. You as a council allowed me and my community to start bowling leagues which in my opinion is an essential business to me because it allows me to get out once a week and socialize which is imperative to my continued treatment of PTSD and MDD. Regards to my TBI it allows me to continue working on my occupational therapy by increasing my dexterity and mobility issues. When you take away stress relievers for veterans with disabilities like me the numbers show there is an increase in depression, possible suicides, suicide attempts. When you take away outlets, that were given back like bowling, reintegration into the community also becomes increasingly difficult. I was a Hospital Corpsman Second Class (HM2) in the Navy saving lives not taking lives. I worked as a Fleet Marine Force (FMF) medically trained military service member under combat environments. I was also a Behavioral Health Technician working as a rapid Psychiatric response team dealing with emergency situations such as the Navy ship yard shooting which sadly people forgot because it isn't a common occurrence such as COVID-19 isn't a common occurrence. What I do know is that recreation therapy specifically Bowling was a crucial medical tool helping Maryland residents and military personnel get through the trying time. I am writing to you hoping that you take all considerations including my testimonial. I bowl on Friday nights at the Bowl America in Clopper where we are in compliance with the county's ordinance. with 0 inspection violations and 0 COVID-19 cases. We currently are on week 6 of 8 and not asking for more than we already have. I would love to come and talk to the council as a testimonial. Please don't take away one of my most important reintegration tools just because more COVID-19 cases increasing which is do too an increase in testing vs actual cases resulting in medical hospitalizations/deaths. I fought for this country for freedom which includes freedom of choice. I did not fight to have my rights taken away and have Americans lose their jobs and outlets taken away. we are dealing with enough issues during this time. You allow people to count ballots with more than 50 personnel in one area wearing masks as their protection while counting votes with bare hands and having more contact with people than a bowling alley does. just like the right to vote our right to live and make choices for ourselves and our family should be just as important. For me this bowling league and bowling center is my family.

Respectfully

HM2 (FMF) Michael Marquette

Retired Navy Veteran