

February 8, 2021

TO: Montgomery County Council

SUBJECT: Proposal to Allow Indoor Dining

I am writing in support of the proposal to allow 25% capacity for indoor dining establishments.

Closing all indoor dining made sense at the beginning of the pandemic when the public was coming to grips with the magnitude of the crisis. But now I believe restaurants and other food service businesses have adapted to the measures needed for safe dining: they are cleaned thoroughly and regularly, people practice distancing and wear masks, and staff has been trained to serve safely. Many restaurants have installed plastic dividers and retrofitted ventilation systems.

I believe the very last thing a business owner wants is a reputation as a 'super spreader' establishment. Business owners are thoroughly invested in controlling the spread of Covid and can operate safely by following CDC guidelines.

Please consider the safe reopening for restaurants at 25% capacity.

Thank You

James Carlson  
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