

COVID-19 PUBLIC COMMENT
RECEIVED BY DISTRICT III SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE:

During our conversations over the last 45 days, Bay Club is constantly discussing our desire to be a part of the solution for reopening active lifestyle opportunities – helping provide guidance for all businesses in the category. Active lifestyle opportunities include but are not limited to golf clubs, swim & tennis facilities, athletic clubs and smaller fitness centers. We feel strongly that these are essential businesses to support the physical, social and emotional health and well-being of the community. We want to do our part to ensure that businesses in this category can be successful in resuming services in a safe and responsible way.

We realize the importance of taking a phased approach especially including factors such as indoor physical distancing (5 people per 1,000 s.f.) versus outdoor acreage (social distancing minimum of six feet apart). We have been working through the comprehensive CDC guidelines while developing our procedures. We've also referenced the White House briefing on "Opening Up America" and local guidelines similar to those outlined by County of San Diego to reopen golf clubs (attached). We have created comprehensive and detailed plans that are in alignment with local, state and federal regulations. Our plans are attached for your reference. I would welcome your feedback as well as any dialogue on how we can be part of the solution including offering our team's time or facilities to support training and education of these detailed SOPs. We are willing to help wherever possible! (note – there are accompanying documents to this that are attached).

My name is Donna Bruner and I am the salon owner for Tribes Salons and Spa with 3 locations in Danville, California. Today has been an especially tough day for me, as I witness one staff member after another pack their professional products to go "underground", in order to support themselves and their families. I have over 120 peers throughout my locations that have not received any support or income for 7 weeks. They are independent contractors and they have no other choice, but to go underground.

I was on a walk this morning with a friend, who told me she had just had her salon services performed somewhere but would not share with me where she had gone. My staff won't share where they are going to be working. We are regressing back to the days of prohibition and speakeasy's and breeding a culture of "keepers of secrets" to protect those that need to generate income to put food on the table but can't work at their salons. California is losing control over its small businesses, as they need to do what they need to do to survive. I personally have the responsibility of paying high rents on leased premises with no money coming in.

The utilities still need to be paid, insurances and all of the other expenses required to run a business. If the SIP continues for the salon industry, we will be out of business and in bankruptcy. I have spoken to many other business and salon owners and we are facing financial ruin and closure. Yes, there are many governmental programs that we've all applied for, but very, very few of us have seen any money.

The State Board of Cosmetology in California has very strict rules on sanitation and sterilization and we've practiced these protocols our entire careers. I personally employ a housekeeping staff from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM, at each of my locations. Adding an extra layer of compliance, such as wearing masks, gloves, 6' distancing and other guidelines is something we can and are willing to do to stay safe.

I implore you to reconsider your decision and ask that you support us by allowing us to return to work with the caveat that we will continue to honor our commitment to protocols and sanitation, as outlined by other states who've allowed their hair salons to re-open.

I am a licensed Cosmetology Professional. You know what that means?

That means, I attended cosmetology school full time, 40+ hours a week while pregnant and still working part time, for almost an entire year, to get to 1800 clinical hours in Nevada and then forced to return to cosmetology school in California for another 60 hours for OSHA Laws, in order to apply to state board exams in California. Requiring that I pass a two-phase exam, both written and practical. To prove I was worthy and able to practice cosmetology.

That also means, every two years I am required to renew my license. I believe whole heartily in continuing education; not required in California. I continue to attend bi-weekly classes annually, along with my staff members; whom I pay to attend. I am licensed in California to touch people. That is a privilege that very few professions have, and one that I, and my team members take very seriously. So seriously that the State Board of Cosmetology comes into my salon and barbershop, at random, unannounced times to inspect my facilities and procedures and employees with a fine-tooth comb. And we pass every time. Thank you, Inspector Jones!

There are major fines for noncompliance, and they are not lenient. We are trained and prepared to protect you from infectious disease transmission from ourselves and from others. We literally train for this our entire careers.

Long before you were worried about COVID-19, I was worried about HIV, MRSA, Staph, Strep, Tuberculosis and more, FOR YOU. One of the safest places you could possibly be is in my chair, with me.

Now my profession is being forced to stay home, because we are listed as number three in line to reopen in the state of California. Thank you, Gavin Newsom. (Nice haircut by the way)

Grocery stores are far from orderly and crowded. Lowe's and Home Depot are far from sanitary and always filled with all sorts of people. Car washes are now open. Construction sites are now open. Pawn shops are now open. None of these places have ever been trained to keep you safe like licensed Cosmetologists and Barbers are trained and tested.

Forcing closures is a misguided, feel-good measure that is protecting the few who are at risk but is bankrupting thousands of salon professionals.

If you don't believe or agree with me, just look to our politicians and T.V. personalities. They all look fantastic with their fresh haircuts, color and makeup! They feel perfectly safe with their salon professionals and they are still privately receiving hair and makeup services. This is the price being privileged in California.

Forced to live in a disease of despair. Why? For the life of me I can't figure it out. No longer "just a hair dresser". Our community needs us. More than you may realize. Ever notice how happy your S/O is after a visit to the salon or barbershop? It's not just about the hair. Thank you, Tabatha Coffey. It's the experience. And humans need touch. And care. And kindness.

Please tip your Stylist or Barber. They are most likely an empath who is hurting deeply during this pandemic.

I have eleven employees. Some have yet to receive any compensation from the state. I worry daily about their mental and physical wellbeing.

I love what I do. I love who I do it for. This has been an epic WTF. I want our amazing community to know how difficult this time is. I am a believer in community and respect. And I absolutely love all of you. We are determined to return. But we need your help and support. Please email us with your scheduling requests. I am working daily to reach out and connect. It is beyond my wildest dreams that we would ever have to deal with such a pandemic. We hope you are all healthy, happy and in good spirits. We look forward to having you in soon.

My name is Jonni Smith, I am the owner of A Dress Change, women's consignment, located in downtown Danville. As a small business owner, I have taken a very big hit during this pandemic, questioning whether I will be able to survive this country wide shut down. I have done everything I can as far as loans, haven't been approved yet, praying I will get some help anyway I can.

With that said, I am desperate for myself and my consigners on how I can make sales to pay rent and to provide money to the women that have brought their items in to sell. With non-essential businesses mandated to remain closed, I am trying to come up with ways to survive this.

One idea I have come up with was to have an outdoor sale, similar to a flea market or farmers market, being able to keep social distancing in an outdoor environment. My shop has a private parking lot, which where I would have the sale, therefore, I could spread out sales tables and racks. I have come up with a detailed plan on how I can make this as safe as possible.

When I was telling a friend about this idea she had recommended that I contact you for advice, either getting a thumbs up or down whether I would be able to have this sale or any steps I need to take to make this happen. I am sure you have felt the desperation of the local business owners, this is something we all never thought could happen here in the U.S. and we are trying our hardest to survive.

After the COVID-19 virus hit America, you had asked me what the City can do for our businesses. With the recent decisions of our county supervisors, the answer to that question is now clear to me. The City can now help by lobbying for a lifting of the quarantine. There are now too many experts testifying, Dr. David Katz being one, that the quarantine has gone too far and there isn't data that justifies the continued shutting down of our economy. I believe here is tremendous long-term harm put upon our local economy for every week this quarantine isn't lifted. Some are saying 20% - 30% of restaurants will not reopen when the quarantine is lifted. We can protect the vulnerable and save the economy but not with our current policies. Below is the email I sent to Supervisor Andersen.

I realize your decisions during this challenging time are going to be difficult. You're being pressured between two opposing forces; saving lives and saving the economy. While I applaud your efforts, I don't

believe your recent decision to extend the quarantine to the end of May was the correct decision. At least I haven't been able to find evidence to support that decision. If there is data that speaks to keeping the quarantine in place, can you direct me to it? No question COVID-19 is more contagious than the common flu though the death rate is far below what is being reported because we don't have good data on how many have contracted COVID-19. We do know in Contra Costa County deaths per capita is low compared to Southern California and other areas of the country. And whether we like to acknowledge it, our society does put a price on life. Last year the USA had approximately 60,000 deaths from the flu, but we didn't shut down our economy. So there is a tipping point where the cost of the quarantine becomes greater than the benefit, or putting it another way the cure is worse than the disease. Yes, the quarantine probably was the right decision, but what metrics are the Supervisors using in order to lift the quarantine? The data shows deaths in the 60 years old and below population is very low. The vulnerable population is the elderly and those with existing heart or lung conditions. Would it make sense to keep the vulnerable population in quarantine and allow the rest of the population to get back to work? For every week the quarantine is in place, our economy is taking a heavy hit and that is detrimental to society. Being closed for 2½ months only exacerbates the trouble our small businesses face in a time of internet commerce. How long will it take them to recover? Will they even recover?