

Julie Enea

Subject: FW: Question for next Ad Hoc Committee meeting

From: Jim Daggs

Date: Wednesday, September 9, 2020 at 4:30 PM

To: Supervisor Candace Andersen

Supervisor Mitchoff

Subject: Question for next Ad Hoc Committee meeting

Dear Supervisors Andersen and Mitchoff,

First off, thank you for all you do for our community. I have been on numerous Ad Hoc Committee Zoom calls and you handle yourselves with grace and poise.

I'm writing to ask about an apparent contradiction between the state's guidance for faith-based offices and the county's guidance for what's allowed to be open. The state's guidance for office workspaces as of September 8 states the following:

Faith-based office workspaces can reopen within the following parameters:

1. Faith-based facilities are considered "offices" only for those employed by the organization and where the facility is their regular place of work.
2. The employer should implement state guidance relating to offices before reopening the facility for employees.
3. This designation does not permit gatherings of non-employees, such as the organization's congregation.

This seems to be separate from the tier status guidelines and gave us hope that we might be able to have some staff return to the office while still promoting teleworking. However, in the "what's open? / what's closed?" section of the Health Services' FAQs, it indicates that only offices for critical infrastructure are open and it links to an 'essential workforce' list published by the state which only permits clergy to work to provide streaming services.

Knowing that the county has sought over these past several months to align itself with state guidance as much as possible, our desire would be to see if the county FAQs could be updated to reflect the state guidance for faith-based office workspaces. Perhaps Dr. Farnitano could address that issue during the next meeting on 9/17. And if that is not the proper forum for this kind of question, if you could point me in the right direction, I'd greatly appreciate it.

Thanks again!

Blessings,

Jim Daggs

Executive Pastor

NorthCreek Church