

December 14, 2020

Dear Montgomery County MD, Council Members,

My name is Omar F Martinez

I work for Silver Diner LLC. My position in the company is Area Director and I oversee the Silver Diner in Rockville, Gaithersburg and the Silver Location in Bethesda.

Silver Diner 260 associates in these 3 Montgomery County locations, and if you approve the county executive order to completely close down dining in in the restaurants 80.0% of our employees will be laid off. These associates are already working reduced number of hours and now they will be complete out of work during the Holiday Season which hearth breaking for me.

Here in Silver Diner, we take the health and safety of our associates and guests very seriously. We are very diligent and strictly in following the CDC guidelines, federal and states protocols, we installed Plexiglass dividers in between booth and tables, we are only seating up to 25.0% capacity and we installed a State-of-the-Art Air purification system which is Hospital grade level all Silver Diners. Management is checking the staff body temperature every shift, we have a full-time staff just cleaning, disinfecting and sanitizing all the exposed areas in the restaurant, and everyone inside our buildings are wearing face covering.

I am kindly asking you to please keep restaurant dining open, serving at the current 25.0% capacity or less, but please do not close the restaurants down. With cold winter weather we can't seat guests outside, and I do not want 80.0% of our staff to be out job through the holiday season. Most of the restaurant workers cannot claim unemployment due to their legal immigration status. These people will not have money for food, for rent and to pay their bills, and just so you know they're a lot. The federal government and the county executive are not doing much to support the Latino community which is the one being most impacted with the pandemic.

I understand the County Executive is putting the restrictions with a good intention and we appreciate it but closing dining in for restaurants is just going to hurt our most needed people. There is nothing to prove that restaurants are the cause of high transmission of COVID-19.

I thank you for reading this document and I appreciate everything you do for our people.

Sincerely,
Omar F Martinez