

Dear County Council Members.

My Name is Stephen Miller, a 78 year old resident of Montgomery County for 60 years. Our local economy is being impacted by COVID-19 particularly employees involved in many of our restaurant facilities. There has been no definitive proof that restaurant dining contributes to the spread of Covid-19. They have been cut back considerably and have taken the necessary precautions as outlined in all guidelines. Some facilities such as The Silver Diner have installed air systems to further clean the air. Montgomery County has a large population that likes to go out to eat and support our local businesses. By further restricting this, more businesses in our county will disappear and of course, there are all of the secondary consequences for employees. The restaurants do contact tracing, do super clean-up jobs, space their diners and should be allowed to continue to operate. It is generally too cold to do outside seating where it might be available and simply carry out is sometimes impractical. We have to look at the mental health of our community and going to a restaurant supports that.

Please allow our restaurants to remain open.

Stephen Miller