

Legislative Testimony for Feb 1 2021 (public)

Full Name	Home Address	City	Zip Code	Representing yourself?	What organization or whom do you represent?	Legislation*	Position on Bill or Resolution	Remarks	Optional Attachment
Christine Richter	1250 Stillwoods Way			Yes		Bill 2-21:	Support	TESTIMONY BY CHRISTINE RICHTER IN SUPPORT OF BILL 2-21, ZONING - BIRD SANCTUARIES My name is Christine Richter and I live at 1250 Stillwoods Way in Annapolis. I am the Director of the Icarus Foundation, Inc. and have been a resident of Anne Arundel County for the past 16 years. I love living in this county and greatly appreciate its forward-thinking, and compassion and respect for animals as witnessed by the formation of the Animal Welfare Council in 2009, which is committed to the goal of promoting the sensitive and humane treatment of domestic animals and wildlife in Anne Arundel County. I founded the Icarus Foundation, a nonprofit parrot sanctuary, because of the ever growing need that exists in our area for a transparent, sustainable sanctuary that can provide lifetime care for exotic birds who have been neglected, abused, or discarded. Excluding tropical fish, exotic birds are the 3rd most popular pet after dogs and cats and yet one of the most frequently rehomed. Many breeders and pet stores don't tell their unsuspecting customers just how much time, effort, and money is involved in the proper care of these extremely intelligent animals, setting up the owners and their birds for a huge fall. Adding to the problem is the longevity of parrots, many of whom can live upwards of 60 years, often outliving their owners with no place to go. The Zoning Code needs to be amended to allow bird sanctuaries to operate in our County. This will afford our sanctuary proximity to critical avian veterinary care as well as qualified volunteers. Our County's central location will allow us to help not only the folks living in Anne Arundel, but also people and their birds from all over our State. In addition, the passage of this bill can help organizations who are dedicated to the welfare and protection of our native wild bird species as well. We are currently looking at a 10 acre property located in Friendship which would provide the space and the seclusion necessary to properly house and care for these beautiful and very intelligent creatures. We plan to build a caregiver residence along with several outbuildings which will serve to humanely house the birds while affording them the opportunity to breathe in fresh air, feel the warmth of sunshine on their feathers, to fly, and to flock with other birds as nature intended. I would like to thank Councilwoman Haire for sponsoring this bill and request the County Council to approve Bill 2-21. Thank you.	
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William S. Heyman, Esq. James J Elbourn Peggy G Williams	201 N. Charles Street, Suite 1100 103 Wiltshire Ln 103 Wiltshire Lane	Baltimore Severna Park SEVERNA PARK	21201 21146 21146	No Yes Yes	Lou Ann, LLC T/A Ruth's Chris Steak House Annapolis	Bill 3-21: Bill 3-21: Bill 3-21:	Support Support Support	We are counsel for Lou Ann, LLC T/A Ruth's Chris Steak House Annapolis. Please see the attached letter from Esteban De Castro, CEO of Lou Ann, LLC, submitted in support of Bill 3-21. Aside from the fact that the current and extended state of emergency proclaimed by the Governor and supported by the unelected tyrant Dr. K is based on conflagrated statistics and seriously flawed and inaccurate testing methods, I support this bill. **The purpose of civil government is not to protect our health. It is to protect our liberty, so WE THE PEOPLE can protect our health.	YES
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James J Elbourn Peggy G Williams	103 Wiltshire Ln 103 Wiltshire Lane	Severna Park SEVERNA PARK	21146 21146	Yes Yes		Bill 4-21: Bill 4-21:	Support Support	The current and extended state of emergency proclaimed by the Governor and County Executive is based on conflagrated statistics and seriously flawed and inaccurate testing methods. I do not wish to validate the state of emergency in any way. Having said that, I do support limiting the endless restrictions that have been imposed on us with such little regard for the destruction of our business community and the peoples' liberty and mental health. I also take exception to inclusion of the word "health" on page 2, Section 2. The purpose of civil government is not to protect our health; it is to protect our liberty so WE THE PEOPLE can protect our health.	
Katie L Shook	Daleview Dr	Glen Burnie	21060	Yes		Bill 4-21:	Support	Members of the County Council- I am writing in support of Bill 4-21- Termination of County Executive's Emergency Powers. We have now been operating as a county with COVID measures for nearly a year and the "urgency" of the emergency has long passed. Emergency Powers are a necessary measure we need in place for situations where the county council does not have enough time or notice to meet in order to vote on measures on behalf of the county; likewise, emergency powers are necessary if a situation is rapidly changing. We have now spent nearly a year dealing with COVID and it is no longer something that is rapidly changing & no longer necessary to allow the decision making authority to lie in the hands of one elected official, but rather, we should give the decision making authority back to the duly elected officials of the council. Voting to uphold this bill is simply voting to be able to more effectively perform your duties in your elected position; it also allows you an opportunity to better represent the residents of your respective districts in regard to COVID policies.	
Steven Waddy	p.o. box 6210	annapolis	21401	No	NAACP	Bill 4-21:	Oppose	The NAACP opposes this bill that would terminate the County Executive's emergency powers. The County Executive is following the legal guidelines set forth in County Code 1-6-103 which requires that the Executive protect the public welfare by taking any measures imminently necessary for the protection of life and property in the County. The imminence of the threat is direct and ongoing with the rise in the number of infections since the pandemic began and its greater escalation in infection rate since the beginning of November as detailed in statistics provided by the Centers for Disease Control. In addition, the failure of the federal government under Donald Trump and the Republican controlled Senate to provide a timely and adequate economic and health oriented response to the virus collapsed the decision making chain to local government leaders and private citizens. In response, the County Executives responsibilities were enhanced and therefore he was responsible for making harsher decisions on local businesses and private citizens to protect their health and safety. The County Executive has taken a responsible and measured approach in the wake of the former President's stated abdication of responsibility and reliance on lies and a strategy of "herd immunity" to defeat the virus. The NAACP opposes this bill.	
Steven Waddy	p.o. box 6210	annapolis	21401	No	NAACP	Bill 4-21:	Oppose	Any changes to the County Executives powers should remain subject to a simple majority vote. From all available evidence the County Executive is not trying to pick and choose winners and losers in his decision making. He is trying to navigate an extremely difficult time between this pandemic which is causing untold amounts of grief and loss, while also supporting those who are suffering from the economic fallout of an inadequate federal response to the pandemic led by an anti-science opposition party that just sent a lynch mob to the Capitol in hopes to overturn the results of an election by killing the Vice President and Speaker of the House. The NAACP opposes this bill.	
Lisa Bates	415 Metropolitan Blvd	Pasadena	21122	Yes		Bill 4-21:	Oppose	There is no longer a state of emergency and Mr. Pittman needs to be removed from his position because he is abusing his power. He is destroying the good people of AAC and their lives. I am sure he doesn't go to bed hungry, can't pay his bills, loss of his housing like many are in this county. If Walmart's, Targets, grocery stores, gas stations can be open so can restaurants and other businesses that need that income to provide for their families. How would he like it if it were taken away from him? I am appalled that the county council supports him in the position of CE when all he has done is destroy. You cannot shutdown people's lives. He has never walked a mile in the good peoples shoes who have businesses that cannot afford to do curbside or shut their doors. He may think he doing for the good of AAC but in reality he isn't and is overreaching his powers and it needs to stop. People are tired of his draconian rules and I can tell you we aren't going to close anymore and will stay open despite his orders. The worst thing Hogan could have done was give the CE's power over this. Keeping the schools closed is not good either. This virus is gonna be here for a long time so let people handle their lives and protect ourselves. We do not need Pittman or the county council to protect us. I am a 51 yr old woman and have done a pretty darn good job of taking care of myself without Pittmans overreach.	
Dean Robbins	1417 Duckens Street Apt 401	Odenton	21113	Yes		Bill 4-21:	Oppose	I stand with and by County Executive Pittman's decisions during this pandemic. He is making decisions in the best interest for all citizens (whether it is the popular choice). The hard truth is we need to remain strong, keep our distance, wear a mask (correctly) not just for ourselves but for our others with whom we may come in contact. I respectfully request members of the council vote against this bill to terminate County Executive Pittman's emergency powers. Thank you, Dean Robbins	
Nancy Parade	8223 North Port Road	Millersville	21108	Yes		Bill 4-21:	Oppose	I oppose Bill 4-21. The COVID-19 emergency has not gone away, and neither should the County Executive's emergency powers. The rollout of the vaccine is taking place, very slowly, but most of the county residents who want to take the vaccine still cannot do so, leaving them and their families at risk. The emergence of several new strains of the COVID-19 virus makes our situation worse, not better, as these new strains are easily transmissible and thus spread far more rapidly. In this situation, infections will continue to outpace vaccinations. Removing the County Executive's emergency powers will throw all decision-making back to the County Council, which will take too long to make essential COVID-19-related decisions that could save residents' lives and help them avoid long-COVID aftereffects. Please vote against Bill 4-21 and devote your energies to obtaining more vaccine doses and deploying them effectively.	
Steve deCastro Steve deCastro	13614 Fox Stream Way 13614 Fox Stream Way	West Friendship West Friendship	21794 21794	No No	Lou Ann LLC Lou Ann LLC	Bill 4-21: Bill 4-21:	Support Support	fully support Fully support legislation be proposed.	YES YES
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James J Elbourn Peggy G Williams	103 Wiltshire Ln 103 Wiltshire Lane	Severna Park SEVERNA PARK	21146 21146	Yes Yes		Res. 5-21: Res. 5-21:	Oppose Oppose	There are too many falsehoods in this resolution, so I oppose it. I always SUPPORT peace and peaceful assembly. However I oppose the lies about the "insurrection" and election fraud in Resolution 5-21.	YES

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Steven Waddy	p.o. box 6210	annapolis	21401	No	NAACP	Res. 5-21:	Support	On November 2nd of last year, Nathan Volke, a Republican who represents a district that voted overwhelmingly for Donald Trump, introduced a resolution on behalf of the Republican Sheriff Jim Fredericks, that spoke about law enforcement being delegitimized through harassment, threats, and violence. The NAACP opposed that resolution, stating that passing it would lead to further authoritarianism on the right. This council passed it unanimously with some minor revisions. Then, the Republican President organized for two months to initiate a coup attempt to stop Joe Biden from becoming President, with the January 6th lynch mob being the final act. A police officer that this council declared was "conducting their duties in the highest professional standards" conspired to overthrow the election of a President-elect by attempting to kill the sitting Vice President and the Speaker of the House on the day that the Congress would count the electoral college votes. This officer instead ended up as part of a mob which killed a police officer at the United States Capitol and caused the death of at least 2 other officers by suicide, not to even mention the officers who were injured. This police officer was one of the "very fine people" standing shoulder to shoulder with Proud Boys, Nazis, 3 Percenters and KKK members that the President told to "Stand Back and Stand By" in one of the most watched Presidential debates in American history. The threat of violence from a group of conspiracy addled, virulently racist, aggressive militia men who support Donald Trump had been ever present throughout his Presidency. He has been inciting violence since 2015, where even his rallies were places of hot tempers and an aggressive calls for vigilante prosecution against the political enemies of the Republican Party. Yet still, Anne Arundel County acts as if there is no emergency. Republicans on the school board vote against a proposal by Drake Smith, a Black student, to restate that Black Lives Matter. Anne Arundel County schools act as if there is no way to stop the racist propaganda it's nearly all white teaching force pawns off on its students. Anne Arundel County's proposed general development plan gives lip service to the centuries of theft and plunder enacted upon Black people in this county but includes no substantive changes to the segregated state of this County. The State of Virginia banned no-knock warrants. We can't even get that in Anne Arundel County despite the murder of Crystal Nelson. Anne Arundel County has not escaped the lure of political violence and the call for collective punishment of Donald Trump's political enemies based on a mass hysteria that has programmed white people caught up in an algorithmic feedback loop of rabidly extremist propaganda to believe absurdities. The NAACP and Black people in Anne Arundel County are not on the opposite political spectrum of white supremacist militia groups like the Proud Boys, 3 percenters, Oathkeepers, the KKK, Turning Point USA, Prager U, the Fraternal Order of Police and various other armed factions of the Republican Party. This is not a debate between two armed factions, both hung up on propaganda spread through social media meant to turn well meaning, nice white people in the middle into political actors. This is about stopping the war abroad from turning into a genocide at home. The same messages that were used to demonize Muslims after 9/11 and lie about the countries that they come from were used to demonize cities run by Democrats. It was not some far off place that created the propaganda that led to an illegal war in Iraq and a neverending global War on Terror. It was Fort Meade. It was Northrup Grumman. It was Lockheed Martin. These are the people who we know to be our neighbors here in Anne Arundel County. These are the top employers in this County. It is no surprise that the Republican Party in this county contributed to the lynch mob at the Capitol. It is no wonder that the middle and upper class whites who have been targeted by this propaganda for decades followed the orders of Donald Trump and stormed the Capitol, killing and maiming the very police officers they passed a meaningless resolution to support.	
SueAnn West	595 Pinewood Drive	Annapolis	21401	Yes		Res. 5-21:	Oppose	SueAnn West, Annapolis, MD, OPPOSED to RES 5-21 Shame...SHAME...S H A M E on the four of you WASTED tax dollars to spew your intolerance and hatred...your favorite thing to accuse OTHERS of doing. It is things like this that make it understandable that we search for intelligent life on other planets, because there is certainly none between the four of you. I wonder if your parents are proud of each of you for disrespecting the position you hold and the constituents you undeservedly represent...to spread YOUR lies about President Trump...while the bus shelters near the Annapolis DMV and surrounding area are FILLED with homeless people. What are you doing about THEM? Answer: NOTHING! Because YOUR priority is to DESTROY people you don't agree with. This resolution is REPUGNANT! And the four of you should be on your knees apologizing to AACO residents for your HATEFUL performance.	
Michelle Koul	312 BOWLINE CT	SEVERNA PARK	21146	Yes		Res. 5-21:	Support	I am hoping the council can come together to support this resolution. The violence that took place on Jan 6, and all those who contributed to the deception, should be condemned. MG Koul WISE Education	
Katie L Shook	Daleview Drive	Glen Burnie	21060	Yes		Res. 6-21 thru 15-21:	Support	Members of the Council, I am writing in support of Resolution 7-21 and respectfully request that allowances to the mask requirements within fitness establishments be expanded to include alternative facial coverings in order to allow fitness establishments to be able to accommodate members with bona fide medical conditions that cannot safely exercise while wearing a mask if it presents a true health risk. By not permitting fitness establishments to accommodate their members with medical disabilities, it may be considered a violation of Title 3 of the ADA yet many establishments are terrified of being shut down by the health department due to the exclusionary language in the current mask guidelines. I have personally been unable to work out at my fitness center since the passing of the expanded mask order that no longer permits a medical exemption for mask wearing while actively working out. Prior to the expanded order, I was able to remove my facial covering while at my station/equipment & socially distanced from other members, and put it back on as I moved between stations/equipment or interacted with other fitness center members. Once the option to remove my facial covering at my station was revoked by the current guidelines, my fitness center has informed me I can no longer exercise in their facility due to the expanded mask order and the removal of the medical exemption within the mask order. My medical provider has advised me that it is not medically safe for me to exercise with a mask on. I am now left without the option to participate in an activity that greatly improves my medical condition (when able to do so unimpeded by a mask) and also improves my mental health too. We're living in incredibly restrictive times that have posed very dire mental health situations for people with medical conditions that cannot safely mask but are doing what they can to retain any activities that they can safely participate in while maintaining some sort of normalcy & stability. The expanded & more restrictive mask order has discriminated against a population of people in similar medical situations as I am in. We are simply trying to live life as normally as possible while still respecting the advice of our medical providers all while remaining empathetic to businesses that have requirements set by the local government. All we are asking is that accommodations be made to allow us to participate in society in any way we can during this time. Please support this resolution on our behalf.	
David M. Zwald	263 Bowline Road	Severna Park	21146	Yes		Res. 6-21 thru 15-21:	Support	I am writing to offer my qualified support of Resolution 6-21. I commend Councilman Volke for offering this resolution. My wife and I reside in Councilwoman Fiedler's district. During this COVID era, we have attended 4 distinct congregations. I have found EVERY church to be taking extreme care and caution to protect attendees. I believe I have a unique understanding of the risks and the best protocols as I operate nursing homes and I stay closely abreast of this issue. Each of the 4 churches have set up very appropriate and specific protocols to assure social distancing, mask wearing and limiting social contact within their buildings. I note that church people are as responsible as you can get in following the rules. For many of "we, the people", ZOOM attendance of a church service is a poor substitute to being in presence of fellow congregants. It is very important for encouragement and our emotional well-being. I also state that freedom of religion and speech are enumerated in both the U.S. and Maryland constitutions, as a fundamental right and that government shall not abridge these essential rights in America. Thus while I support Resolution 6-21 as a practical step in this COVID era, I also assert that the County Executive and the Governor have no constitutional right to limit worship AT ALL. Thank you for this opportunity to speak on behalf of supporting Resolution 6-21. David M. Zwald, Severna Park	

January 14, 2021

To: Anne Arundel County Council

Re: **Council Bill 3-21**

Dear Council Members:

On behalf of Lou Ann LLC T/A Ruth's Chris Steak House Annapolis in Anne Arundel County we are writing to express our company's strong support for Council Bill 3-21 (the "Bill"), which seeks to repeal and reenact, with amendments: Bill No. repealing and reenacting, with amendments: § 1-6-104 of the Laws of Anne Arundel County, by "prohibiting the County from enforcing conditions imposed in connection with the proclamation of an emergency that are more restrictive than conditions imposed by the State in connection with a proclamation of emergency unless authorized by ordinance adopted by the affirmative vote of five members of the County Council." In supporting the Bill, we are not minimizing the risks and untold suffering that have been caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Based on all of the evidence, however, and given our company's experience, the Governor's Executive Orders (including those governing restaurants) more than adequately protect both our employees and the public. Moreover, the current County-wide state of emergency and the various additional restrictions placed on our restaurant industry by the County Executive has led to unnecessary and devastating economic losses and abuses of executive power that will be stopped if the Bill is passed.

Our company has always prided itself not only on providing a first-class dining experience and a great place to work, but also on being a good corporate citizen. Consistent with our commitment to the community, we donated over 3000 meals to the first responders in the County. Our restaurant in Annapolis has been open for more than 23 years and employs more than 70 people. As soon as we became aware of the pandemic's impact, we and our team members made every effort to comply with all executive orders and best practices. The restaurant follows all State and County government orders concerning Covid-19 protocols and will continue to do so. All staff are required to wear masks. All shared surfaces are properly disinfected in accordance with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines. All non-household individuals are kept six-feet apart. There are numerous



MARYLAND

ANNAPOLIS - EASTPORT

BALTIMORE - PIER 5

ODENTON - VILLAGE AT ODENTON STATION

PIKESVILLE - REISTERSTOWN ROAD

NEW JERSEY

ATLANTIC CITY - THE WALK

NORTH CAROLINA

CARY - THE ARBORETUM AT WESTON

DURHAM - RENAISSANCE CENTER AT SOUTHPOINT

RALEIGH - NORTH HILLS TOWN CENTER

WILMINGTON - HOTEL BALLAST



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hand-sanitizers stationed throughout the restaurant. And all employees receive health checks before starting work.

The imposition of special emergency restrictions in Anne Arundel County, when all Maryland counties other than Baltimore, Prince George's and Montgomery, have not surpassed those imposed by Governor Hogan's Executive Order 20-11-10-01 on November 11, 2020, is neither fair nor equitable. It makes no sense that restaurant owners and employees in Anne Arundel County, all of whom are suffering greatly, were subjected to the County's Emergency Order's restrictions that go well beyond those issued by the Governor and nearly every other county. For example, through the exercise of nearly unfettered executive power, the County Executive issued Executive Order 39 that would have required all restaurants to close, yet allowed social clubs to remain open at 25 percent capacity, while casinos were also allowed to remain open. In addition, although we are aware of capacity restrictions on big box stores, it does not appear that they are enforced and by our own observation, it is clear that the types of safety protocols that we practice are not practiced in nearly all of them. Yet, despite this, restaurants are clearly the focus of the emergency regulations and their enforcement. Ultimately, as the result of litigation brought by other restaurants, the County Executive amended Executive Order 39 and then issued Executive Order 40 allowing restaurants to remain open at 25 percent indoor capacity with additional rules governing outdoor dining. But we have yet to see any basis to suggest that the additional restrictions imposed by the County, over and above the Governor's 50 percent maximum load limit for facilities, are necessary. In fact, the 6 foot rule requiring parties to be separated is more than sufficient to protect the public. Applying that rule, nearly all restaurants, and certainly ours, can operate at 50 percent capacity and still maintain a distance of more than 6 feet between dining groups. Limiting capacity to 25 percent is not necessary to maintain the separation between parties. We also believe that the State government – with all of its resources – is best situated to determine how restaurants and other businesses should be restricted during the pandemic. Allowing only one person – the County Executive – to exceed the limits imposed by the Governor's emergency orders is not in the best interests of the County or its citizens. If five Council Members are required to agree with the County Executive before restrictions are imposed, then there is protection of the County's citizens from potential abuses of executive power.

This Bill's passage is also needed to curb abuses of executive power. The Ruth's Chris Steak House Annapolis restaurant was closed on New Year's Eve and remained closed until January 2, 2021. That closure required counsel to be retained and resulted in a lawsuit. After



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being in business in the County for more than 23 years, our restaurant was closed as the result of an inspector who misunderstood the occupancy requirements of the restaurant. Rather than work with us in a cooperative manner, this County health officer exercised his unchecked power under Executive Order 40 and shut our doors, in the middle of the dinner service on New Year's Eve. This precipitous action caused not only economic loss, but tremendous damage to our reputation and good will. We subsequently learned that this closure was instigated by anonymous complaints and that the County Health Department, which is only investigating occupancy violations after such complaints are received. This leads to an "enforcement" regime that fails to ensure equal protection under the law. .

For the above reasons, we respectfully request that the Bill be passed.

Esteban "Steve" De Castro, CEO

January 8, 2020

To: Anne Arundel County Council

Re: Council Bill 4-21

Dear Council Members:

On behalf of Lou Ann LLC T/A Ruth's Chris Steak House Annapolis in Anne Arundel County we are writing to express our company's strong support for Council Bill 4-21 (the "Bill"), which seeks to repeal and reenact, with amendments: Bill No. 24-20, Section 1, Laws of Anne 8 Arundel County, 2020, terminating the County-wide state of Civil Emergency that has existed since Executive Order Number 16 was issued by the County Executive and thereafter approved by the council. In supporting the Bill, we are not minimizing the risks and untold suffering that have been caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Based on all of the evidence, however, and given our company's experience, the Governor's Executive Orders (including those governing restaurants) more than adequately protect both our employees and the public. Moreover, the current County-wide state of emergency and the various additional restrictions placed on our restaurant industry by the County Executive has led to unnecessary and devastating economic losses and abuses of executive power that will be stopped if the Bill is passed.

Our company has always prided itself not only on providing a first-class dining experience and a great place to work, but also on being a good corporate citizen. Consistent with our commitment to the community, we donated over 3000 meals to the first responders in the County. Our restaurant in Annapolis has been open for more than 23 years and employs more than 70 people. As soon as we became aware of the pandemic's impact, we and our team members made every effort to comply with all executive orders and best practices. The restaurant follows all State and County government orders concerning Covid-19 protocols and will continue to do so. All staff are required to wear masks. All shared surfaces are properly disinfected in accordance with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines. All non-household individuals are kept six-feet apart. There are numerous hand-sanitizers stationed throughout the restaurant. And all employees receive health checks before starting work.



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This Bill's passage is also needed to curb abuses of executive power. The Ruth's Chris Steak House Annapolis restaurant was closed on New Year's Eve and remained closed until January 2, 2021. That closure required counsel to be retained and resulted in a lawsuit. After being in business in the County for more than 23 years, our restaurant was closed as the result of an inspector who misunderstood the occupancy requirements of the restaurant. Rather than work with us in a cooperative manner, this County health officer exercised his unchecked power under Executive Order 40 and shut our doors, in the middle of the dinner service on New Year's Eve. This precipitous



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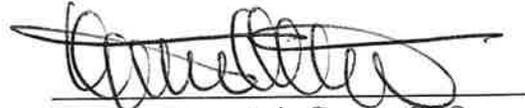
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action caused not only economic loss, but tremendous damage to our reputation and good will. We subsequently learned that this closure was instigated by anonymous complaints and that the County Health Department, which is only investigating occupancy violations after such complaints are received. This leads to an "enforcement" regime that fails to ensure equal protection under the law. .

For the above reasons, we respectfully request that the Bill be passed.



Esteban "Steve" de Castro, CEO

Resolution 5-21 OPPOSE!!!!!!

Members of the Council, it is hard to contain my disgust at this resolution. By now, it is obvious to most people that this was an operation planned and executed by Antifa agent provocateurs, as well as insiders who allowed the barricades to be breached. This resolution is packed full of lies; I am getting sick and tired of people lying with no evidence to back it up, and then accusing others of doing the same, when they didn't! President Trump did not incite anyone to violence. If you bothered to listen to his speech, you would know that. American patriots do not attend rallies with gas masks and helmets. Those people who incited the violence were NOT Trump supporters.

Did you all see the video of the Capitol Police moving the barricades and LETTING PEOPLE INTO THE BUILDING? Did you see Police waving people through the building, giving directions, and taking selfies with some? Did you see the video of the Trump supporters yelling at the police asking them why they were allowing Antifa to destroy the building, and also physically preventing Antifa from breaking windows? Did you see the footage of Antifa members changing into Trump- and patriotic-garb in the bushes? The way this resolution is worded tells me that you saw none of that.

Also, how you can deny election fraud is beyond me! Did you see the footage in real time from election night, of votes being switched from Trump to Biden? Don't you wonder why all the counting was stopped in several states simultaneously and then thousands of votes appeared for Biden overnight while everyone was sleeping? But there's nothing to see there, right!?

99.9999% of the people who attended Trump's speech on Jan 6 were peaceful. They were Republicans and Democrats concerned with election fraud, old vets, grandmas, women, children, gay and straight, black, brown and white, old and young, and your everyday hard-working people from all over the world who love this country and the Constitution that makes it great, waving flags and singing the Star-Spangled Banner. How do I know this? I was there standing in that crowd. Are you labelling me an insurrectionist or a domestic terrorist because of my ideology? The fact that I am even bringing up this possibility sends a chill down my spine. I went that day because I want my children to grow up in a free country, one that does not silence, censor, and imprison those who think differently or critically.

And by the way, did you all draft a resolution condemning the rioting, killing and looting of BLM? The billions of dollars in damages and destroyed businesses and lives across the country they caused?

I was a life-long Democrat, and like you 4 sponsors of this resolution, I too suffered from Trump Derangement Syndrome not that long ago. The only cure was turning off CNN and MSNBC and the likes of them, and finding alternative news that did not cherry-pick Trump's speeches, get wined and dined on the Chinese Communist Party's dime, and endlessly spew left-wing propaganda. You should try it.

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