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SENATOR DAPHNE JORDAN
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October 1st, 2020

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo,

I respectfully write on behalf of small business owners and the people they employ in my 43rd Senate District asking you to direct the Empire State Development Corporation to develop a plan for the immediate reopening of billiard halls throughout the State of New York.

Despite common misconceptions of the sport as a “bar game”, billiards is a highly competitive activity enjoyed by many New Yorkers in settings specifically designed to accommodate billiard tables and games. Unlike bars and taverns that may have a pool table where anyone can play at any time, billiard halls are centered around reserved table spaces and times and are an experience where groups stay at their table rather than “coming and going” from their table to other social spaces within the business. Additionally, some billiard halls have “pro shops” within them which sell competitive billiard accessories.

Billiard halls are necessarily centered on table games, which would allow small groups to enjoy socially distanced activities if correctly arranged. I have included a list of suggestions for their safe reopening sent by the proprietor of Trick Shot Billiards, a business in my 43rd Senate District. They include:

1. Pool tables will be socially distanced from one another.
2. Seating will be at the ends of each table; seating around the perimeter of the hall is prohibited.
3. Patrons will be allowed to play in groups of up to four patrons and are recommended to remain seated until their turn at play.
4. Patrons will be provided their own sanitized billiard balls and cue sticks to use and will be directed to go to an assigned sanitized table.
5. Patrons will be served at their table and patrons are prohibited from ordering at the counter or bar area.

6. Patrons are prohibited from “mingling” and must remain at their assigned table.
7. Upon completion of their game time, patrons must go directly to cash out, after which time the tables, seats, billiard balls, cue sticks, and area will be sanitized for next use.
8. Masks must be worn at all times unless eating or drinking while being seated at a table.
9. Inter-table socializing is prohibited.

Like other recreational businesses in New York State, billiard halls are ready and willing to cooperate in providing a safe experience while working to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. I ask you, on their behalf, to direct Empire State Development to create a plan to reopen these businesses.

Thank you for your attention to my request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daphne V. Jordan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Daphne Jordan
State Senator, 43rd District

Cc: Michael Yevoli, Capital Region Director
Empire State Development Corporation