

RANKING MINORITY MEMBER
RACING, GAMING AND WAGERING

COMMITTEE MEMBER
AGRICULTURE
BANKS
ETHICS

NEW YORK

**STATE
SENATE**

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
ROOM 508
ALBANY, NY 12247
(518) 455-2381



SENATOR DAPHNE JORDAN
43RD SENATE DISTRICT

July 14th, 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 businesses in my 43rd Senate District asking you to direct the Empire State Development Corporation to develop a plan for the immediate reopening of bowling centers throughout the State of New York.

Bowling centers are important sites in our communities for recreation, and represent a business that is suffering in its current state of being shuttered. Bowling centers are easily reconfigurable for social distancing and can abide by indoor occupancy parameters just as easily as restaurants or other businesses which are now open. Much like other "Low-Risk Indoor Arts & Entertainment" venues included for reopening in Phase Four, bowling centers are unlikely to have large, close-quarter crowds which could pose a risk to public health. Furthermore, these businesses were initially included in the Phase Four reopening but were inexplicably removed and remain closed.

Many bowling centers are small businesses which operate on small margins of profitability. Those who own and operate bowling centers, like other business owners, are willing to make accommodations and work with the State in order to ensure that their businesses open in a safe, responsible way. I have included a list of suggestions for their safe reopening sent by the proprietor of East Greenbush Lanes. They include:

1. At least one empty lane shall be maintained between each group of patrons using the lanes.
2. Rental shoes shall be thoroughly cleaned between uses with a disinfectant approved for COVID-19 sanitation, which shall include inner and outer shoe cleaning and sanitizing.
3. Patrons other than immediate family members shall not be allowed to share a bowling ball.
4. All bowling balls shall be removed from the lane concourse area after usage. Any bowling ball loaned or rented by the facility to a patron shall be returned after use for thorough cleaning and sanitation.

5. When allowing a patron to choose a bowling ball for use, once touched by a patron, the ball shall be thoroughly cleaned and sanitized before being allowed to be touched by another patron.
6. All unnecessary touch points throughout the concourse shall be eliminated, and those that cannot be eliminated, included seating areas, will be wiped between use by groups and thoroughly cleaned and sanitized each twenty-four hour period.
7. Hand sanitizer stations shall be made available throughout each establishment.
8. All employees and patrons over the age of two (2) that are not exempted by any New York State guidelines will be required to wear a mask, unless seated at a dining area/table.
9. Food and beverage shall be consumed only in the designated dining area.
10. Any employee shall have access to at least two safety classes which teach how to safely work and provide a safe environment for patrons.
11. Social distancing throughout the venue shall be encouraged and enforced, including through installing appropriate signage, partitions, and plexiglass screening as may be required, and additionally including necessary efforts to avoid congregating and close social gathering in any area, including but not restricted to the concourse area.
12. All employees must answer a health questionnaire and have their temperature taken daily prior to working. Any employee showing symptoms or with a fever shall not be allowed to enter the establishment.
13. Adequate precautions shall be taken to guard against the presence of any employee or patron known or reasonably believed either to be exhibiting symptoms of infection with the COVID-19 virus or to have been exposed to the COVID-19 virus within the preceding 14 days.

With a safe, sensible plan in place, I ask on behalf of bowling centers that the State work with them in order to begin the process of reopening their businesses, including providing a date by which time they are allowed to reopen.

Thank you for your attention to my request.

Sincerely,



Daphne Jordan
State Senator, 43rd District

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