

RECEIVED

2020 OCT -2 AM 9:47

CITY CLERK
CITY OF PASADENA

Alyssa Burge

September 22, 2020

Mayor Tornek, City Council, Pasadena Health Department
c/o Mark Jomsky
City Clerk
100 North Garfield Ave.
Pasadena, CA 91101

Re: COVID-19 and Pasadena School Reopening

Dear Mayor, City Council, and Dr. Goh

I am writing you today with strong hopes that you will reconsider opening our schools as soon as possible. I have two sons who have been greatly affected by the shutdown this year. Both my sons are very active and thrive on social gatherings and time spent with other children. For my husband and I, it has been one of the greatest challenges of our lives trying to keep our boys busy, engaged and learning new things during the last six months. In addition to not being able to go to school, our children have been deprived of all other stimulating activities and frequently ask when they can go back to the park, zoo, museums, etc. It has been heart-breaking seeing so much time pass with so little stimulation and so few opportunities to learn and grow. Furthermore, both our sons have had immense separation anxiety since the shutdown. Not being able to go to school has been detrimental to our childrens' mental health in so many ways.

Our children desperately need to be back in school. They need another voice of authority other than solely their parents. They need to socialize and interact with other children. They need a consistent routine to follow outside the home. This is a crucial time in their lives as they are learning and growing at such a fast pace and to see the months go by without a solid education is truly devastating.

Regards,
Alyssa Burge

Pasadena, CA 91105

cc: Kathryn Barger

10/05/2020

Item 1

Martinez, Ruben

Subject: FW: Schools Opening and COVID

Begin forwarded message:

From: Laurie Smith <[redacted]@cityofpasadena.net>
Date: October 1, 2020 at 8:46:47 PM PDT
To: "Jomsky, Mark" <mjomsky@cityofpasadena.net>
Cc: "Goh, Ying-Ying" <ygoh@cityofpasadena.net>, "kbarger@bos.lacounty.gov" <kbarger@bos.lacounty.gov>, "Mermell, Steve" <smermell@cityofpasadena.net>, "Tornek, Terry" <ttornek@cityofpasadena.net>, "Madison, Steve" <smadison@cityofpasadena.net>, "Gordo, Victor" <vgordo@cityofpasadena.net>, "Wilson, Andy" <awilson@cityofpasadena.net>, "Masuda, Gene" <gmasuda@cityofpasadena.net>, "Hampton, Tyron" <THampton@cityofpasadena.net>, "jkennedy@cityofpasadena.net" <jkennedy@cityofpasadena.net>, "McAustin, Margaret" <mmcaustin@cityofpasadena.net>
Subject: Schools Opening and COVID

CAUTION: This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Jomsky,

Please distribute this letter as public record to those it is addressed. I am also requesting that the council can receive this as public comment for the next city council meeting. I am not sure how that works with the current process.

I have been a resident of Pasadena for over two decades and this is one of the first letters I have ever written to a representative, because I have never felt more strongly that our children are being hurt. I am writing on behalf of my family and all the school age children in Los Angeles County that cannot attend school in-person. I urge our representatives to help safely reopen our schools for those that choose in-person learning. I have twin boys who are seniors in high school. Being on Zoom all day and having limited remote interaction with teachers and friends is emotionally exhausting and depressing for my kids. The mental health and development of our children is at risk. The seven months that they have been at home has left its toll on them and with other states and other counties within our state reopening, the stress it is causing grows day by day.

I would understand and agree with our ultra cautious approach if we were seeing widespread risk to children, but the numbers show over and over that the initial benchmarks and revised benchmarks are not providing safety, but instead anguish and strife to our families (especially our children). Has anyone done a risk-benefit analysis of the consequences of the lock-down?

According to the LA County COVID-19 Surveillance Dashboard, the 7 day daily average Covid positivity rates for Los Angeles County were 3% (September 29th update). The CDC recommends schools opening when positivity rates are under 5%. Our schools

should be open based on these guidelines! Our Orange County neighbors (3 million population) are re-opening schools and their numbers are similar.

Governor Newsome recently changed our benchmarks and Barbara Ferrer continues to set unreasonable expectations. It's incomprehensible why our government leaders don't want our kids in school. Are they not considering the emotional and physical implications that are a by-product of keeping kids at home on computer screens all day? Why are we allowing and entrusting Barbara Ferrer, NOT A MEDICAL DOCTOR, and her team to dictate Covid school re-opening policy and beyond? Do we really think that she misspoke when she said we cannot consider reopening until after the election?

How can nail salons and breweries find ways to safely open and our schools cannot? Why can we go to Target, the supermarket, dine outdoors and yet our kids cannot go to school? Hundreds of people can gather for peaceful protests yet our children cannot safely attend school?

I just don't understand and I ask for your help and I truly appreciate your taking the time to read my letter.

Thank you for your service,
Laurie Smith

Pasadena 91103

October 2, 2020

Mayor Tornek, City Council, Pasadena Health Department
c/o Mark Jomsky
City Clerk
100 North Garfield Ave.
Pasadena, CA 91101

RECEIVED

2020 OCT -2 AM 9:48

OFFICE
CITY CLERK

Re: COVID-19 and Pasadena School Reopening

Dear Mayor, City Council, and Dr. Goh,

I am a mother and a concerned resident of Pasadena writing to implore you to reopen our schools. My son, Jack, is a 1st Grader at Bethany Christian School and has been forced to participate in virtual learning since March. This has been detrimental to his mental health, ability to communicate to peers and adults outside our family, and his academic learning.

Bethany Christian School had announced their intent to open (in-person, full-time) in July, a week before Governor Newsom's order that no schools could open. Bethany has small class sizes and the space and ability to accommodate all COVID requirements. They applied for the waiver in August and was denied by LA County without explanation.

Since the start of school in September, distance learning has been a huge struggle. My son is active, social, and smart; but because of his lack of interaction in a classroom environment, he is developing poor social skills and a dependence on me instead of growing into himself. He is forced to be looking at a screen for 5-6 hours every day to complete virtual school. As his parent, the level of screen time needed for school is concerning and not at all what we want for our young son.

It has been extraordinarily frustrating to be a parent through this process. No one wants their children to be in a virtual learning environment, but I fundamentally disagree with the reasons our state and county leadership have justified the closure of our schools. As a parent, I feel like I'm failing to do what is best for my child. Choices concerning my child's health should be my decision alone. I need your help to protect this.

Pasadena has COVID cases that are low enough to safely reopen schools. Other cities are doing so safely, and we should follow suit. Waiting for a cure or a vaccine is simply not an option when our children's mental health is at stake. Please call and email Supervisor Barger in support of opening ALL the schools immediately. We are wasting precious time that could be detrimental to these kids.

I would like to hear next steps from you. I want to know what it will take to get our children back in schools, so they do not fall behind and suffer from irreparable emotional damage.

Thank you,
Traci Iacuaniello

d. Unit D

Pasadena, CA 91105

cc: Kathryn Barger

10/05/2020

Item 1

Martinez, Ruben

From:
Sent: Friday, October 02, 2020 1:10 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Back to School Issur

CAUTION: This email was delivered from the internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you know the content is safe.

Dear Board

I urge you to do what is best for Pasadena. In this case stand, up to the teachers union to let our youngest and most vulnerable young go back to in person school where they can get meals, compassion, human interface and direct assistance to their learning needs. This is giving back to our younger community so we can assist their future. The Union can surely figure out hew this can be safely accomplished. Robert Smith, 1277 Parkview Ave., Pasadena, CA 91103.

10/05/2020
Item 1

RECEIVED

2020 OCT -2 PM 4: 31

October 2, 2020

Mayor Tornek, City Council, Pasadena Health Department
C/o Mark Jomsky
City Clerk
100 N. Garfield Ave.
Pasadena, CA 91101

AT 11:00
OCT 2 2020

Re: COVID-19 and Pasadena School Reopening

Dear Mayor, City Council, and Dr. Goh:

Our four-year-old daughter, Charlotte, attends St. James in South Pasadena. The leaders at St. James worked hard to come up with a plan that would allow the kids to come back safely, and they've delivered in a flawless way.

Charlotte is so happy being back. She pops out of bed every morning, so eager to spend time with her friends and to learn the day's lessons. She's joyful. It couldn't have been any more different at the end of the spring semester when classes became exclusively online. Those were a drag for her, and understandably so — you can't expect a kid to get much out of that experience.

But she's only four. It wouldn't have been the end of her world if St. James stayed online-only for awhile longer. And so this letter isn't inspired as much by Charlotte's experiences as it is by thinking back to my own experiences when I was a kid.

I think about those stages we only get to experience once, the unique things at each step of our education that kids of this generation are missing out on. I think especially about all the special memories around my senior year of high school, and how sad it makes me for the Class of 2020 that won't ever get to experience many of those things. We might not've had a choice for the Class of 2020 given the timing of the pandemic, but what about this year's senior class? We, of course, owe it to them to keep them safe first and foremost. But don't we also owe it to them to do everything in our power to grant them those life experiences that they'd be robbed of if we don't find a way to safely get them back in school?

Let's not force anybody that doesn't yet feel comfortable going back. But let's present these kids and their families with the option. There are ways to do this right, and we owe it to this generation to figure it out before more kids are robbed of those life experiences that only come around once.

Thanks very much for your time,

Libbv Davis

South Pasadena CA 91030

CC: Kathryn Barger

10/05/2020
Item 1

Martinez, Ruben

From: Paul Robi <paul24818@icloud.com>
Sent: Friday, October 02, 2020 4:47 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Re-open Hot Yoga Pasadena

CAUTION: This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you know the content is safe.

Dear City of Pasadena,

Please re-open Hot Yoga Pasadena. This studio has numerous measures in place to prevent the spread of Covid.

This Hot Yoga practice provides peace, happiness and a strong sense of community.

Keeping this studio closed is degrading the quality of life for Pasadena's numerous yoga students.

Respectfully,

Paul Robi
Hot Yoga Pasadena Instructor and Pasadena resident

Sent from my iPhone

10/05/2020
Item 1

October 2, 2020

Mayor Tornek, City Council, Pasadena Health Department

% Mark Jomsky
City Clerk
100 North Garfield Ave.
Pasadena, CA 91101

Re: Covid-19 and Pasadena School Reopening

Dear Mayor, City Council and Dr. Goh

This is an urgent plea to the City of Pasadena to do what is needed to help the youngest members of our community, those who rely on the adults around them to advocate for them. I have a daughter who is a senior in high school, and her mental health is suffering terribly from not being at school. She has all of the stresses that go along with being a first semester senior, namely applying to college, but on top of that, she is learning and taking classes remotely. She feels isolated and alone, depressed and full of anxiety. If she were back on her school's campus, that homework and those college essays wouldn't go away, but she would get a break from the stress, a time to decompress and feel normal and realize that all of her friends are going through the same thing. As it is, she is sad every day, despondent and she just feels as though she can't face another day like the one before. I've asked her to reach out to her school counselor, but it's just one more Zoom call that she can't bring herself to do.

I am imploring you to do something important for our children. A friend was recently expressing to me her concern for her middle-schooler who is beginning to pick at his skin because he is so isolated and anxious about online school. Although I don't have young children, the very young don't understand why they can't go to school and see their friends, and they aren't learning the extremely important socialization skills that they need. We've been hearing for years how important it is that we get kids off of screens, and now, we're telling them that they need to get off screens for their own good and for the sake of their mental health, but for this year it's ok. Well, it's not. We are to the point where it is safe for them to get back to in-person learning.

I know that this virus is real. My family follows all of the safety protocols associated with staying safe and healthy during this crisis. We are taking it seriously. I wouldn't be making this urgent plea if I thought that it was dangerous for our children to go back to school. In Pasadena, we are doing an amazing job of keeping those at the most physical risk safe. Now it's time to turn to saving our children, those who are at the most risk of emotional harm, and who are suffering greatly from being separated from their friends, their teachers who love them, their safety net of school.

I recently heard a story about a high school trying to get an SAT exam to be held on its campus. The high school was trying desperately to get permission from the City of Pasadena to hold the exam because many seniors still don't have test scores. That particular City representative wasn't getting any answers from the State, so a representative from the school, who has no experience in government, called Sacramento. Later that day, the school was cleared to hold the exam. The reason that I share that story is to illustrate that if there is a will, there's a way. We elect you to represent us, and we need you to speak out for us, on behalf of our children. Don't just take "No" for an answer. Go to the County of Los Angeles. Go the Sacramento. Do what you can to speak for the children that you represent.

Regards,
Tracy Lewis

Pasadena, CA 91106
cc: Kathryn Barger

10/05/2020
Item 1

Martinez, Ruben

From: Wendy Stark
Sent: Saturday, October 03, 2020 10:38 AM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Business openings

CAUTION: This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you know the content is safe.

As an "essential" employee working for an airline as a customer service agent at Hollywood Burbank airport I know first hand about protocol: mask wearing, social distancing, hand washing. I also know that it is virtually impossible to make sure everyone, passengers and employees are complying at all times, I see all the time when they are not. As a Pasadena resident and a client at Hot Yoga Pasadena (Val Skylar Robinson's business) I was beyond impressed with the protocol she put in place when they were allowed to reopen in mid June. It went so far above and beyond anything I saw at the airport, mostly because it is a small studio and she CAN control all her clients. Unlike other businesses that have remained open the whole time where we go and buy too much food (to eat our feelings), or spend money on stuff we don't really need because we are bored, yoga is a business where we go to actually boost our immune systems and try and stay healthy. I urge you to let small businesses and specifically yoga studios reopen ASAP.

Thanks for your time,
Wendy Stark

10/05/2020
Item 1

Martinez, Ruben

From: Riad Momen
Sent: Saturday, October 03, 2020 10:56 AM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Yoga session

CAUTION: This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you know the content is safe.

I think yoga is very healthy for mental and physical health which is very much required during this Covid-19 era. I request to consider Yoga sessions if it is possible to do outdoor practice keeping social distance and all other precautions being taken care. Regards

10/05/2020
Item 1

Martinez, Ruben

From: Sophia Chan
Sent: Saturday, October 03, 2020 11:10 AM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Cc: Val SklarRobinson
Subject: Pasadena hot yoga

CAUTION: This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you know the content is safe.

Hi, I'm Sophia Chan and I am a student of Pasadena Hot yoga for over 15 years. The hot yoga has healed me of many of my physical pains and also help me with my internal digestion through the stretching. The heated room makes all the difference. Please allow hot yoga Pasadena to re-open again.

Warmly,
Sophia

10/05/2020
Item 1

Martinez, Ruben

From: Laura Avella
Sent: Saturday, October 03, 2020 11:38 AM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Yoga is essential

CAUTION: This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern;
I have battled chronic back pain for years, recently yoga was also beneficial in my recovery from a torn rotator cuff surgery.
Bikram yoga has played a minor role in my recovery from both injuries for a number of years .
To me bikram yoga is essential,
Essential to my overall wellbeing.
Hoping this personal nota will bring awareness and aid in the opening of our studio.
Thanks

Laura Avella

10/05/2020
Item 1

Martinez, Ruben

From: Marcie
Sent: Saturday, October 03, 2020 11:54 AM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Re: Agenda #1 - Covi 19 Buisness Reopening

CAUTION: This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you know the content is safe.

Gentlepersons,

I have lived in Pasadena for over twenty years. After over thirty years of practicing law, I have a lot of low back issues. The only thing that has helped is the Hot Yoga Pasadena studio.

I am requesting that you reopen the fitness and hot yoga studios. When Hot Yoga Pasadena was briefly open before being instructed to close again, this studio was taking extreme precautions for safety. You had to register on line. The number of people in the studio were restricted. You could not use the showers, you could not linger in the lobby. The owner even changed the routine to delete the breathing exercises.

Quite frankly I won't even go into Costco right now. I will go to Target, but it makes me nervous. Yet a small owner run studio is closed? It needs to be reopened with proper protocols. This owner was doing everything correctly. We need this for our health.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of my request.

Sincerely,

Marcie Donald

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

10/05/2020
Item 1

Martinez, Ruben

From: Laura Avella
Sent: Saturday, October 03, 2020 12:33 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Yoga is essential

CAUTION: This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern;

I have battled chronic back pain for years, recently yoga was also beneficial in my recovery from a torn rotator cuff surgery.

Bikram yoga has played a major role in my recovery from both injuries for a number of years .

To me bikram yoga is essential,

Essential to my overall wellbeing.

Hoping this personal nota will bring awareness and aid in the opening of our studio.

Thanks

Laura Avella

Laura Avella

10/05/2020
Item 1

Martinez, Ruben

From: cookie fahey
Sent: Saturday, October 03, 2020 1:19 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Hot Yoga Pasadena

CAUTION: This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you know the content is safe.

To Whom It May Concern,

Health, both mental and physical is vital to get thru these times. I was a very anxious, stressed person, on the verge of a breakdown when a therapist suggested I try yoga. I HATED the trendy-ness that yoga was. My husband signed us up for a month trial. It changed my life. I know how to manage my stress. It is essential that the studio re-open again.

The owner has made it so safe, I would rather go to yoga than eat in a restaurant, go to a mall!!! We all need our physical strength to combat covid. And it is so unfair that the small businesses are closing and can't survive.

Please fight for our city and community. I love Pasadena.

Thank you so much!

Cookie Fahey

10/05/2020
Item 1

Martinez, Ruben

From: Vera Golakova Abreu
Sent: Saturday, October 03, 2020 2:10 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Oct 5 Mtg: Re-Open Yoga & Fitness Studios!

CAUTION: This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you know the content is safe.

Dear City Council Members,

As a long-time Eagle Rock resident, I live work, shop, and work-out in my community. As Covid restrictions are lifted, please consider the necessity of opening fitness studios throughout the region. Not only does opening these establishments keep the small business economy working, it allows for your citizens to maintain good health—physically, mentally and emotionally.

Pasadena and Glendale, where Eagle Rock is located, have extremely low rates of infection—lower, in fact, than the Governor's current guidelines.

Understandably, there is caution in re-opening the economy too quickly. However, during the brief window when facilities were open in June, I observed strict adherence to safety protocols—including limiting participants to allow for appropriate social distancing, thorough cleaning, more ventilation (e.g. windows/doors open; A/C & fans on), insisting on mask wearing and active monitoring by staff at my beloved yoga studio, *Hot Yoga Pasadena*, and at the South Pasadena & Glendale YMCAs.

These businesses take health and safety seriously—and should be respected as essential to the community's well-being.

Throughout these past months, as restrictions were lifted for large stores like Target, Vons, Walgreens and Ralphs, I have seen and experienced lax, unsafe, unsanitary protocols in these corporate entities; so much so that I avoid shopping there, preferring instead to spend my money in smaller businesses that are careful and conscientious.

The current restrictions are hurting small businesses and they are hurting our health.

Please allow the fitness community to have its outlet—and allow yoga and gyms to re-open.

Thank you,
Vera Golakova-Abreu

Los Angeles 90041

10/05/2020

Item 1

Martinez, Ruben

From: John Cheng
Sent: Saturday, October 03, 2020 5:18 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Hot Yoga Pasadena, a health essential establishment for top considreation.

CAUTION: This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you know the content is safe.

Dear City Councilmen;

As a forty-five-year Pasadena residence and homeowner. I want to urge the city council to consider the re-opening of Hot Yoga Pasadena as I sincerely regard this establishment to be a life and health essential.

I have personally observed that they practice the strictest COVID precautions during the few short weeks that they were allowed to open in July. They went overboard with their safety precautionary measures, as a health and wellness practitioner, I knew we were all very safe.

Your wise consideration of this request is highly appreciated.

Thank you,

John Cheng

Pasadena, CA 90016

10/05/2020
Item 1

Martinez, Ruben

From: Justine Ung <justine.ung@pasadenacalifornia.gov>
Sent: Sunday, October 04, 2020 5:41 AM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Agenda Number #1-Covi 19: Business Reopening

CAUTION: This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you know the content is safe.

Dear Pasadena City Council Members:

I'm writing to ask for your consideration to designate Hot Yoga Pasadena as an essential business, allowing it to open with limited capacity and other safety measures in place.

As a member of the Hot Yoga Pasadena studio since 2016, my hot yoga practice has been a game changer in my health and my career as a pharmacist. Long hours of standing, repetitive tasks, and extended computer use result in persistent pain in my hips, shoulders, neck and wrists that weekly chiropractic sessions and daily pain medication could not relieve. My constant fear of not being able to continue to function in a career that I am passionate about was relieved after discovering hot yoga practice. Practicing hot yoga twice a week at the studio allowed me to stop relying on the use of pain medications. In addition to pain relief, hot yoga has played an instrumental part in my overall physical and mental health.

The closure of the studio for the past few months has been challenging. I've been practicing yoga at home with virtual classes, but the pain relieving effects are not the same without the heat provided by the studio. For the short period that the studio was allowed to open in June, I felt safe practicing with all the precautions that the studio had in place: COVID-19 screening, capacity limitation, social distancing, mask wearing, modifications of our yoga routine to limit respiratory droplets, etc. We were practicing with full awareness of the actions we must take to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

I, and many other members in the Hot Yoga Pasadena community, rely on this studio for the maintenance of our health and well-being. It is especially important to keep studios like hot yoga Pasadena open to help us get through this challenging time, as we need to stay strong to carry out our essential work! Please consider making changes that allow Hot Yoga Pasadena to be in operation!

Thank you for your time and consideration!

Sincerely,
Justine Ung

10/05/2020
Item 1

Martinez, Ruben

From: Stephen McBean <[redacted]>
Sent: Sunday, October 04, 2020 12:26 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: #1-Covi 19: business Reopening

CAUTION: This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern,

I support the re-opening of Hot Yoga Pasadena and other yoga studios that implement all the necessary safety measures. Yoga is essential for my and others physical & mental health, and doesn't pose the same risk as public gyms with common equipment. I also feel with following proper safety guidelines yoga studios are as safe as visiting a grocery store or salon.

Sincerely,
Stephen McBean

10/05/2020
Item 1

Martinez, Ruben

From: Emily Smernoff <[redacted]>
Sent: Sunday, October 04, 2020 2:04 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: #1 Covid 19 - Business Reopening

CAUTION: This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you know the content is safe.

Dear City Council,

I hope that you will take action to reopen yoga studios in Pasadena. The yoga studio is a source of physical and mental wellness. I believe that the studio can be safely reopened. The studio opened in June in adherence to all the safety protocols and was doing just fine and we can do it again. The members of the studio respect each other and respect each other's space. Our practice is done independently. We do not share any equipment - there is limited risk of spread which can be addressed with proper safety measures. The members depend on this practice for our health. Maintaining our physical strength, cardiovascular strength, and mental/emotional health is vital to combat this pandemic. We need to be allowed to care for ourselves. I do hope you will consider all the businesses that have been reopened like nail salons and malls and assess whether it is responsible to continue to suppress other small businesses like yoga studios.

Thank you,
Emily Smernoff

Sent from my iPhone

10/05/2020
Item 1

Martinez, Ruben

From: Karen Iwamiya
Sent: Sunday, October 04, 2020 4:50 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Cc: ✨ Team Hot Yoga Pasadena ✨
Subject: #1-Covi 19: Business Reopening - Yoga is Essential

CAUTION: This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you know the content is safe.

Dear City of Pasadena Council Members,

I have been practicing Bikram Yoga for over 15 years. When the pandemic closed my beloved Hot Yoga Pasadena studio I saw my wellness decline. With stay at home orders and a closed studio I was unmotivated to move my body. I gained 10 lbs and was mentally suffering. For me my yoga practice is essential. It's my physical and emotional therapy. Students know of the wonderful mental benefits. Bikram Yoga supports both my physical and emotional well being. I feel that practicing at the studio would be just as safe as going to a nail salon, Costco or Target. Val loves her community and students. It is apparent. Val opened safely in June and she can do it again! Val is here to help us get through this extraordinary time in our lives. I miss my studio practice. There is nothing that can compare to practicing in a studio.

Please... I ask that you please consider letting yoga studios reopen. During this moment in our lives we could all use a little yoga love. Safely and together.

Thank you for your time,

Karen Iwamiya

Business Owner

909 511 1111

10/05/2020
Item 1

Martinez, Ruben

From: J Ward
Sent: Sunday, October 04, 2020 4:55 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Public Comment for October 5, 2020 Special Meeting of the City Council - Agenda item #1-Covi 19: Business Reopening

CAUTION: This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you know the content is safe.

Members of the City Council,

I have been a customer of Hot Yoga Pasadena for almost 20 years. I know I speak for many members of our community when I say that regular yoga practice is essential to my health and well being. Hot Yoga Pasadena safety re-opened for a short period in June, as permitted by the County, with safety measures in place. In the studio during that time, the owner, Val Sklar Robinson, ensured we were physically distanced by more than 6 six feet, wore masks, and practiced yoga with the doors to the outside open to allow for ventilation. She and her staff wiped down the studio after each class. I felt 100% safe at the yoga studio with these safety measures in place; more so than I do going to Target, Vons, etc. Second to wearing masks in public, I know that I will be best protected from COVID-19 by maintaining my strength and immunity through regular and consistent yoga practice. I consider yoga critical to my health, especially during the pandemic. Hot Yoga Pasadena provides an essential service to the community and should be permitted to re-open with safety measures in place.

Thank you,

Jean Ward

Los Angeles, CA (Eagle Rock)

10/05/2020
Item 1

Martinez, Ruben

From: Noelle Aloe <noellealoe@me.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 04, 2020 5:04 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: opening gyms

CAUTION: This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you know the content is safe.

Dear City Counsel members

I am writing to request that you allow yoga studios and fitness centers in Pasadena to open and trust that these business and the people they serve are responsible citizens and will adhere to safety requirements. In March, we were told we needed to flatten the curve. This has been done and the CDC's numbers show a very low risk among most populations, in addition to hospitalization rates being low.

These shutdowns have destroyed our economy and it is heartbreaking to see so many people that have spent decades or years building successful businesses have to shut down. How many vacancies are you willing to see in this city, how many lost jobs, how many lives destroyed and how many people that become sick and unhealthy due to no exercise options?

Every business should be allowed to open. It is preposterous that Walmart, Costco, Target etc are deemed safe and exercise studios are not, especially given that exercise is key for health and a strong immune system.

Please open our yoga studios and gyms, it is time. Let people decide what risks they want to take and trust that people will follow safety guidelines. We are responsible adults.

Thank you
Noelle Aloe

10/05/2020
Item 1

Martinez, Ruben

From: Richard Horton
Sent: Sunday, October 04, 2020 8:27 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Gyms In Pasadena

CAUTION: This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you know the content is safe.

Dear City of Pasadena Community Council,

I am a student at Hot Yoga Pasadena and have been a student for almost two years. I urge you to let gyms, re-open as soon as possible. Having the opportunity to work out in a class environment is essential to not only my spiritual well-being but my physical well being as well since I am overweight.

The owner at Hot Yoga Pasadena, Val Sklar, has implemented safe protocols in compliance with local, state and federal guideline to ensure the safety of her students.

It is my opinion that as long as a gym business owner is complying with safety regulations, they be allowed to reopen.

Individual gym members can make their own decision about whether to work out.

Thank You.

Richard F. Horton

10/05/2020
Item 1

Martinez, Ruben

From: Sogomonian, Alice M.
Sent: Sunday, October 04, 2020 9:22 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Reopening of Hot Yoga Pasadena

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To the City Council people: My name is Alice M. Sogomonian and I have been a member at Hot Yoga Pasadena for 20 years. In fact, my entire family practiced at Val Sklar Robinson's studio pre-pandemic. We all go do our practice there because it is a mind, body & spirit practice. My husband and I are both medical professionals in the Pasadena community and it has been a vital part of keeping us healthy so that we can keep others healthy. Val plans to institute safe practices at her studio so we can return and do our practice without getting ill. I hope you will take our comments in to consideration as you make decisions regarding the reopening of Hot Yoga Pasadena. Sincerely, Alice M. Sogomonian, Registered Nurse Practitioner and Charles E. Niesen, M.D.

10/05/2020
Item 1

Martinez, Ruben

From: Ed Wu
Sent: Sunday, October 04, 2020 9:42 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Yoga is Essential

CAUTION: This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you know the content is safe.

Hello,

I wanted to reach out to share how yoga is essential for my mental and physical health. Although its a precarious time but it may be possible to open with at least some capacity to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and allow yoga. Perhaps we can be creative about the solutions and limitations so that it is safe.

Best,

Ed Wu

www.edwu.co | Instagram: @edwu | Twitter: @edwu

10/05/2020
Item 1

Martinez, Ruben

From: Carmen Ramirez
Sent: Sunday, October 04, 2020 10:16 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: HOT YOGA STUDIO PASADENA

CAUTION: This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern,

My name is Carmen Reyes. I have been a member of Hot Yoga since 2003. I am writing this letter to advocate on behalf of HOT YOGA PASADENA studio. Yoga and Pilates are part of my well-being. In terms of my health they have done wonders. The three weeks that the studio opened during this pandemic, safety protocols were followed and we were able to practice Pilates and yoga in a safe manner always keeping social distancing. I urge to consider to open the studio as soon as possible. We need to continue being healthy. That studio is essential just like other businesses that were approved to be open.

Sincerely,

Carmen Reyes

10/05/2020
Item 1

Martinez, Ruben

From: Heather Sanderson < >
Sent: Monday, October 05, 2020 7:16 AM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: School

CAUTION: This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you know the content is safe.

"I'm writing regarding Pasadena supporting all schools to open. All children should be the priority.

The mental health of our children is at stake and we need you to fight for our littlest community members. Our children may be facing long term mental health problems.

Day care and day camps are open but those require a lot of additional funding to which many families are not privileged to. What is the difference to opening schools? Allowing them is widening the socioeconomic gap and will cause further deep-rooted emotional damage.

The mental health of parents should also be considered. We rely on a village to help raise a child and we no longer have that gift of community, which is extremely isolating. The stress a parent feels to be everything to a child can cause deep emotional stress and cause damage to the parent child relationship.

The CDC says schools should reopen using a risk continuum...at what point do we value the physical and mental health of children? I will not stand to watch children fall behind...I hope you won't either. Call Kathryn Barger, say you want ALL Pasadena schools to open.

Heather Sanderson
Residential Real Estate Specialist

DRE#: 01881548

, Pasadena, CA 91105



10/05/2020
Item 1

Martinez, Ruben

From: Brando Valencia - >
Sent: Monday, October 05, 2020 9:19 AM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: #1-Covid 19: BUSINESS REOPENING

CAUTION: This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you know the content is safe.

Dear Council Members,

I believe yoga studios such as Hot Yoga Pasadena are essential for physical, mental, and emotional health! I would highly encourage and recommend to allow Hot Yoga Pasadena to be open once again. I recently had spine surgery in early March and I am in need of further physical therapy. Yoga has been a practice of mine for 8 + years and is an essential part of my recovery and healing. Hot Yoga Pasadena was allowed to reopen in June which I attended classes and our owner Val Sklar absolutely practiced, maintained, and respected all safety protocols to ensure our health and safety. We had no issues or problems with not ONE student infected with Covid - 19. I cannot understand how I am not able to practice physical therapy, exercise, and do yoga while we allow high crowded areas to remain open such as Targets, Home Depot's, nail salons, retail stores, supermarkets, outdoor dining, etc. along with all the outside protesting in mass crowds. I feel as if my civil liberties have been taking away from me, allowing certain places to open and not allowing an essential studio as Hot Yoga Pasadena to open and help improve our health, body, and mind. Please consider allowing Hot Yoga Pasadena to open.

Again Val Sklar is a excellent, respected, professional business owner who is mindful to respect our safety measures and protocols. We encourage your vote and have her studio reopen, PLEASE!!!

Thank you,

Brando Valencia
Resident

Sent from my iPhone

10/05/2020
Item 1

Martinez, Ruben

From: Fab Gomez <[redacted]@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 05, 2020 9:35 AM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Hot Yoga Pasadena

CAUTION: This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you know the content is safe.

Good morning,

I have been a member of Hot Yoga Pasadena for about 5 years for not only fitness but more for the health benefits. This studio has served me as not only a facility for meditation and mental health but a place that seriously cares about health and wellness. Val and the rest of the team take public health extremely serious and during the short time we were able to get back in the studio, they kept the place immaculately and I felt entirely safe and knew that we were following the proper protocol to keep us protected . Please consider adding allowing this facility to re-open. Many of us in this community rely on this studio for it's therapeutic benefits!

Thank you for your time,

Fabiola Gómez
(626)609-8675?

10/05/2020
Item 1

Martinez, Ruben

From: May Kwong <mk>
Sent: Monday, October 05, 2020 9:45 AM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Reopening of Pasadena Hot Yoga studio

CAUTION: This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you know the content is safe.

Dear Council members,

I'm writing this to support the reopening of Pasadena Hot Yoga studio.

I've been practicing hot yoga for the past 15 years. I do it 4 times a week. This becomes an essential to my well-being. For the past six months, without the practice, I start having sciatica problem.

So I sincerely request the city to consider to let Pasadena Hot Yoga reopen ASAP.

Thank you

May

10/05/2020
Item 1