

DEPUTATION REQUEST

REGIONAL COUNCIL

FEBRUARY 4, 2021

Subject: Controlled Red Zone for York Region

Spokesperson: Robert Amado

Name of Group or person(s) being represented (if applicable):

Brief summary of issue or purpose of deputation:

I would like to ask that this letter supporting Carmine Perrelli and his motion to allow businesses in York Region be moved to the Controlled Red Zone and get distributed to ALL council members.

OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL CLERK

1-877-464-9675 x. 71320

york.ca



February 2, 2021

To whom it may concern,

I have owned and operated my hair salon business in Vaughan for the past 13 years. In the past year I have struggled to stay afloat because of COVID-19. I have made sure that the salon has kept to a strict, clean and sanitized environment. I have made sure to protect my clients, my staff and anyone within my establishment with a strict protocol in place. Each guest or staff member would sanitize their hand upon entering the salon. Each styling/wash station would be sanitized before and after each client. If one would need to use the facilities, upon exiting a member would immediately disinfect the entire restroom. This has been the protocol since we were permitted to reopen from first wave lockdown back on June 19, 2020. Not one person had ever contracted COVID-19 or any virus for that matter. In fact, there has never been a COVID case to come out of any salon. This lockdown has put my business and myself in tremendous debt as the bills keep coming in and the payments for mortgage/rent continue to be withdrawn as my business has once again been locked down. As a business owner, I had issued my staff their ROE so that they may collect CERB or EI, but being self-employed, I am not entitled to collect or be compensated in any way, shape or form. I called the bank yesterday to see if I could have payments deferred and was told that they were not permitted to do so this time around. I asked if I could lower my mortgage rate and had been told that I would be penalized if I were to do so. I asked my accountant to look into rent subsidy for me and was told I would be able to collect \$75 dollars for rent subsidy. (I can assure you that \$75 won't even pay my utilities) I have been talking to many different hairstylists and salon owners because we are all at a loss. I do know this though... Last lockdown as I would walk through the neighbourhood I would see many people getting haircuts in their backyards, if this lockdown continues it will not only cause this to happen again if it hasn't already but now there will be individuals who do not care to have hair stylists come into their homes. Although I DO NOT condone this and have made every attempt to provide hair care products to my clients and do what I can to stay afloat by offering curbside pick up, it is not enough for me to sustain a business or even make a wage for myself. It makes me wonder why a massage clinic is allowed to operate business with an individual being touched in a closed room and yet one is not allowed to have their hair cut in a controlled environment such as my salon. In a controlled environment it makes it easy to schedule appointments and allow us to control the amount of people coming in and out of the salon and maintaining a physical 6ft distance between each styling chair.. DOES COSTCO have this type of controlled environment.? The rules do not make sense.

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YES I understand that having a massage is considered a medical practice but is that massage clinic only accepting patients who are in medical need of help? Is that masseuse only working from their practice or are they going to make house calls for those who can not be mobile? MY BUSINESS and so many other salons have followed protocol because we care because we want to do what is right and keep everyone safe but now we are talking about my livelihood . On February 10th my children will be allowed to go back to school but as their father and caregiver I struggle to support both my family and also my business with no income coming in. My children can go back to school with a 3ft distance between each desk, with 15+ students plus a teacher in one room. The students and teacher can have lunch together in the same room unmasked and sitting 3ft from each other but I am not allowed to operate my business in a controlled environment with at best 6 people being distanced 6ft apart and sitting with a mask on facing forward with nothing but a mirror in front of them. Thank you for taking the time to read this.

If at all possible I would also like to be put down to give my deputation on THURSDAY FEB.4th 2021. I will be more than happy to attend and be part of this special council meeting that is well deserved of being put into motion.

I hope we can all come to a positive vote and together make sense of what is right for struggling businesses.

Best Regards,

Robert Amado