

**From:** [Kimber Pitman](#)  
**To:** [BoardOperations](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Board of Supervisors - June 8: Safe opening of recreational and fitness facilities  
**Date:** Friday, June 5, 2020 5:13:58 PM  
**Attachments:** [image.png](#)

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Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors,

One of the many challenges before us on our path for reopening is the very general lumping of businesses by category so that those who have an environment that will lend itself well to the new public safety measures must wait for the least flexible and most challenging within our groups to be ready to open. There is no consideration for the size of a business, the volume of people who will interface with the business, or even for the vast differences in the services and manners of operation. It is unnecessarily restrictive and merely so because of the convenience in sorting out this monumental task and not because public safety would benefit from all businesses in a particular group remaining closed.

My husband and I opened a small Pilates Reformer studio in October 2019 in San Jose. We have always worked with our clients spaced 7 feet apart, no shared equipment, and thorough cleaning afterwards. We have specific class times and direct supervision of client activities at all times. We are not a big gym with a revolving door, dozens of people traversing in and out, filled locker rooms, and crowded workout spaces.

We are different.

And so are dozens of other small health studios in the area. We are all waiting for the opportunity to show the County Health Department and the communities that we share and love that we will bend over backwards to provide the safest environment possible for our clients. It is not just to make us suffer further debt or dissolve entirely because larger gyms with different challenges may not be safe for use just yet. Because of our small size, organized method of entry/exit/equipment use we can EASILY provide a safer environment than what all of us experience in our regular trips to the grocery store. We have a well-thought out, practiced protocol, based on current science and recommendations - but we are not allowed to add to the normalcy, the health and wellbeing of our community, right now because we are generally lumped in with gyms.

Our studio - our small business - is not alone. Those who have not folded already are running on mere fumes at this point. Each added week cripples us even further and pulls from resources that we will likely need as we weather the coming months of uncertainty. We have been asked to close our doors by government directive in the name of public health, and yet we have received no help, no support from the government. We deserve the right to present our plan for safety to our County Health Department, work as hard as we always do to ensure that plan is implemented consistently for the safety of the clientele upon whom we depend, and to be considered separately as discussions go forward over the coming months about which public interfaces may actually pose a threat to public health if/when case numbers ebb and flow.



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