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December 30, 2021

Board of Commissioners  
200 Baltimore St.  
La Plata, MD 20646

Dear Commissioner:

On December 19, 2021, Governor Hogan announced that 90 percent of Maryland residents eligible for vaccination have been at least partially vaccinated.

In light of the new data presented, our organization is still strongly opposed to a mask mandate in Charles County.

A return to a mandatory mask mandate is detrimental to our organization. We operated at 50 percent for 2020, and we are just starting to feel the advantages of more normal numbers since the mask mandate was lifted. With the Olympics this year we should have had a banner business year. Our patrons are recreational and competitive gymnasts and competitive cheerleaders. Wearing masks while actively participating in athletic events makes breathing extremely difficult and creates a dangerous environment for the athletes.

A legal consultation for our business recommended that (as we are not doctors and we are not familiar with physical condition and needs of our patrons) we only recommend that our patrons wear a mask, but not to mandate that a mask be worn. This choice should belong to the parent(s) of minor athletes and adult athletes who are members of our facility. Trust Charles County constituents to make intelligent informed decisions regarding the health requirements of their families.

Additionally, we do not have the personnel to "police" mask wearing. Many of our employees are teenagers. Asking a teenager to tell an adult to wear

a mask is not a good scenario. As we continue our recovery, paying employees to police mask wearing is not feasible.

Returning to a mask mandate environment will severely hamper Universal Sports & Academics, Inc.'s recovery after Covid-19. Please consider the viability of businesses operating in Charles County under a mask mandate when Calvert and St. Mary's are no longer mandating masks.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Lisa Shaw', with a large, circular flourish at the beginning.

Lisa Shaw, Director of Operations

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Joseph Taglisferi', with a large, stylized flourish at the beginning.

Joseph Taglisferi, Director of Athletics