From: noreply@buncombecounty.org
To: letstalk
Subject: Web Contact: Let"s Talk Comment
Date: Saturday, November 14, 2020 7:57:06 PM

There are new comments from a https://www.buncombecounty.org/letstalk user.

Let's Talk

This email was received from a user of the Buncombe County Website.

Name:
Anonymous
Phone:
Email:
Subject:
Unsafe public and work environment
Questions / Comments:

The OneStop at Asheville Music Hall, 55 College Street, will be reopening next week after a 3 week closure following a Covid outbreak centered around a dozen of their staff and contractors, which then spread to over 100 people in our local music community. They have been operating under the premise that they are a “restaurant” even though the lessee of their kitchen is a separate business entity and they have no controlled seating area. Patrons are free to roam and mingle and masks are not enforced as it is a drinking establishment rather than a dining establishment. This is not my complaint, that is just background information.

My complaint is about the owner’s intentions for reopening. He has expressed an intention to increase their capacity beyond what it was before the recent closure, which I feel presents a significant threat to the health of employees as well as the community. He has also stated that he will not comply with any state or local orders that would impact the business, and has informed staff that they may no longer enforce face mask rules on customers. Facing an uncertain economic future, staff members are being forced to work in an unsafe environment where their concerns have been largely dismissed. When violations to the current ordinances are pointed out they are dismissed as inapplicable to restaurants, even though the venue continues to operate as a bar and music venue.

I don’t know who is in charge of enforcing these rules, but I hope this complaint finds its way to somebody who has the power to do something about it.

Sincerely,
A concerned citizen.