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Intown Stars' response to Georgia's announcement of re-opening businesses

Anna Robinson, Proud Owner of Intown Stars Gymnastics

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To: adina.langer@gmail.com

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AM



April 23, 2020

Dear Intown Stars Community –

In light of Governor Brian Kemp's announcement this week that gave Georgians the green light to open some businesses such as gyms, I wanted to give you my perspective and response.

First, it is unclear whether or not "gyms" includes youth sports facilities like gymnastics centers. I am going to assume it does not, though I am still working to confirm this information.

Second, if it were intended for this order to include youth sports facilities like ours, I would not open the business again at this time. I miss everyone dearly and want desperately for our business to open to families and our staff again. But I committed to making decisions for reopening based on facts.

Here are the facts I will consider when making the decision to reopen:

- The White House epidemiology experts have said the states should have achieved **"14 days of sustained decline in coronavirus infections before lifting restrictions on commercial activity"**.

- Though Governor Brian Kemp cited a decrease in the number of daily infections, it is clear that this number is only the reported number of infections, and without widespread testing availability, it is impossible to know if this decrease is accurate.
- Some public health experts have said widespread measures to reopen the economy would need to be accompanied by half a million tests a day. Georgia has issued more than 80,000 COVID-19 tests so far, with 18,947 positive cases and 733 deaths as of Monday. **Georgia remains in the top tier of rates of infections.**
- We do not have access to supplies we would need to be able to keep our gym sanitized to the degree we feel would keep our families and staff safe. It is still nearly impossible to purchase sanitizing wipes or disinfectant spray. Not to mention, toilet paper.

The announcement to reopen businesses at this point was based not on current statistics of COVID-19 in Georgia. I will remain resolute in my decision to reopen when the facts from the State Health Department, the CDC and other experts tell us it would be safe to be together again. I completely understand the desperation the world is facing to rebound our economy but not at the loss of the wellbeing of our community.

In my promise to remain transparent I wanted to give you an update of our current business status. I applied for the SBA economic disaster loan program on March 22nd when it was first rolled out. I have not received any information about whether or not it has been considered, and we have not received the \$10,000 advance on the loan, so I am assuming our application was not approved before the SBA ran out of money. Similarly, we applied for the PPP loan, but I have not been given a response from this application, either. Congress is in the process of passing a second relief package and I am optimistic that we will receive funding at that time.

During this economic crisis, people continue to lose loved ones and those loved ones are frequently suffering and dying alone. My heart breaks daily for these families. A few members of our staff have suffered losses of loved ones and have attended virtual memorial services rather than being able to hug and comfort one another.

Here are resources for testing for COVID-19 in Fulton and DeKalb counties:
Fulton County Board of Health www.fultoncountygahealth.org 404-613-8150.
DeKalb Health District www.dekalbhealth.net 404-294-3700 Option 1

Thank you to all of the essential employees on the front lines fighting to keep us fed, safe and healthy during this crisis. Continuing to wish everyone health and wellness. I'm also here for you if you need anything. Please reach out to me if I can do anything for you personally.

In gratitude,
Anna

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anna Robinson', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Anna Robinson, M.S.
Owner/Founder/CEO, Intown Stars Gymnastics



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