From:	Rechel Anderson
To:	bbethune@cityofmyrtlebeach.com
Subject:	[External]Fwd: Today, June 12, 2020
Date:	Saturday, June 13, 2020 3:30:16 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or on clicking links from unknown senders.
Greetings Mayor Bethune!

Thank you for your service! I pray that this email reaches you in good spirits and health.

I am emailing you because I had an encounter at the YMCA in the Grand Strand, and I was really disturbed by the outcome.

Below you will see two emails; one from me to the YMCA, and one from Melissa Lauria in response to my email.

I also received a call from an individual yesterday, Friday, June 12, 2020, who attempted to further explain the rationale for their practice. However, as I ended the conversation, I informed him that professionally I would agree to disagree with his explanation.

I am unsure if there is anything that you can do to address this matter, but I at least wanted to bring it to your attention.

My fiancé and I are members of the YMCA and we have a home in Surfside. It is very disheartening that we are unable to visit the YMCA ONLY in the Grand Strand, but have no issues in any other state or city.

In the air of working together to ensure that everyone in the community feels welcome and a part of the community, the practice and procedure that this YMCA upholds is unorthodox, in my opinion, and archaic.

I believe in enforcing safety measures for the protection of all, but I do not believe in enforcing safety measures that exclude certain people from any organization or establishment that do not pose a safety risk or problem.

Thank you for your time and attention. Take care and continue leading with integrity! You are appreciated!

Rechel Anderson
704-779-5727 (cellular)
truere27@yahoo.com (email)

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** Melissa Lauria <MelissaL2@coastalcarolinaymca.org>
> **Date:** June 12, 2020 at 2:08:48 PM EDT
> **To:** rechel anderson <truere27@yahoo.com>

Subject: Re: Today, June 12, 2020

Thank you for your email Ms. Anderson. I am sorry that you feel that way. I will forward your email to our Senior Director and CEO for their response. We have turned away many guests over the last several weeks. Please know that it was a decision made out of safety for our staff and members and not to make any individual feel that they didn't belong. Thank you, Melissa

Melissa Lauria
Member Services Manager
Claire Chapin Epps Family YMCA
5000 Claire Chapin Epps Drive
Myrtle Beach, SC 29572
P: 843-449-9622
F: 843-449-0970

From: rechel anderson <truere27@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2020 2:00:29 PM
To: Membership <Membership@coastalcarolinaymca.org>
Subject: Today, June 12, 2020

Greetings,
Today, I visited the Claire Chapin Epps Family YMCA. It was my intention and desire to enter and complete my work-out. Upon me entering and scanning my card, the individual standing at the entrance asked me if I had scanned the correct card. I responded that I had, but my card was for the Florence YMCA. I was then told that I would not be permitted to enter the facility because of COVID and the establishment was operating in Phase 2; which Phase 2 does not permit any other YMCA members from any other area but the Myrtle Beach area.

While I understand the time in which we are all living in and are having to adjust; I must admit that I was a bit disappointed at the fact that I was unable to enter the YMCA at this location because my membership was paid for in the Florence area.

I shared with the individual who greeted me that I was disappointed because regardless of whether or not I pay my membership in Florence, I am still considered a member of the YMCA. More specifically, I am a taxpayer in both Florence County, Darlington County, and Horry County; as I have property in each. Further, I have visited this location several time before and I have never had an issue...at best I paid $5 and entered.

I was then informed that this measure was in place to ensure that 'our' members have the ability to be served and they must be served first. However, I would have understood it better had the YMCA been filled to capacity. But this was not the case. There was more than enough vacant equipment and ample space for me to have entered and completed my work out, and not hinder any other member from entering to complete their workout.

In a time in our nation where diversity is at the forefront, it is imperative that we consider the practices that we have in place in all organizations and establishments. If a practice that is in place ostracizes an individual - it should be reviewed and changed. This practice, in my opinion, should be reviewed and changed!

I have been a strong supporter of the YMCA for many years. However, today I was made to feel as though my support was of little importance, my membership meant nothing because it wasn't at this designated location, and that the Christian Principles that the YMCA exude...may not be the same Christian Principles that I understand.

I left feeling as though I was a just a mere person off the street trying to enter an establishment that I did not belong.

Sincerely,

Rechel Anderson
704-779-5727 (cellular)
truere27@yahoo.com (email)