

March 25, 2020

To all club members:

Folks, it's time. Effective tomorrow (Thursday March 26), Squashworks is closing shop for "the foreseeable future." We all know why. If there's one takeaway in all this, it's that we're in this together.

But this decision wasn't easy. Truly, I'm touched (and the slightest-bit flabbergasted) by your dedication to the club, even now. I'm flattered that some of you feel the trip down here constitutes "necessary travel"—I love the dedication of squash players, but (and seriously with all due respect) it is not necessary at the moment. We all know why. I see this club and this squash community as my family. I feel protective of all of you. I also feel a sense of duty to protect the healthcare system and the front-line workers at this time. As all of you know, our club is lucky enough to have many of these healthcare professionals.

In recent days, I see maybe a dozen or so of you play squash or workout here at the club. We are already thinning out and making the concessions to "social distance." It's apparent and noticed down here at the club. Of course I miss seeing all of you, but beyond whatever it means to be a business owner during these unprecedented times, I know that it is okay to take a break from squash for awhile. I'm following your lead and taking the next step (in step with gyms across the country) to shut it all down.

I know for some of you this will be particularly disappointing, to which I'll reiterate: we're in this together. Playing squash, taking a steam, exercising, hanging out at the club--the whole Squashworks experience, it's therapy for all of us. The decision to close was precisely difficult from this understanding. It is not my intention to deny you peace of mind, but I also can't deny what's being expected of all of us, and specifically me as a business owner to think about serving community rather than customer service.

I am honored to be a part of this squash community and am committed to its longevity. I'm taking this time to prepare for your healthy return to the club. Squash is on stay-at-home orders, it's not going anywhere.

Many of you have indicated to me that you would be willing to continue your club dues payments in the likely event of this shutdown. Of course, this is very much appreciated and needed given these uncertain times. However, I am keenly aware that everyone is suffering financially as a result of this virus...so if you need me to suspend dues during this time of shutdown...please respond to this email and I will do so immediately. Please talk to me and we will figure out all the financial mess together. Hopefully, this closure will only be for a short time. I will keep communicating through email and updating the website. I'm looking forward to getting us all back in the club and back on the court soon.

Wishing all of you the best of health. Thanks very much for your support and understanding,

Craig