

Hi Cynthia,

I appreciate you giving us the chance to share our side.

I will answer question 8, in regard to the Chester PD. We did have the opportunity to speak to them by phone this morning. We shared our processes with the officer we spoke to, who said that based on what we shared with him, he felt we were doing more than enough to be in compliance with guidelines. We did discuss that the most recent updates to the guidelines had occurred mid-way through our event.

He actually quoted back to us that he had been told by a class attendee who lives in Chester, that she was witness to us turning away a student who traveled by personal vehicle for 12 hours to be here. He contacted us while en-route and told us he had been feeling sick on the drive and we turned him away. We told the officer that upon the student returning home, he contacted us again to tell us he had a covid test, which produced a negative result.

Additionally, we also shared with him that there has been a lot of hostility directed at us through the Chester VT Facebook page and I personally received a hostile email demanding that we close, followed by a series of text messages saying that people don't want us here – which thankfully I was able to diffuse and shared with the person texting me that we were cancelling our December classes. One of our teachers was followed last night as she left the building. As she was aware of the car that followed her out, instead of driving home, she pulled into the parking lot at Smitty's and the car followed her in. She was able to quickly pull out of the lot and lost the car.

The officer we spoke to stated that people on Facebook feel free to say whatever comes to their mind without necessarily meaning it. We shared that people who are fearful, and rally under a mob mentality have the potential to be dangerous and violent. He told us that they would be happy to provide police support to us, should we need it and that we should protect ourselves and stay safe. It was alarming to hear that advice coming from him.

Here's the thing, we feel threatened and are not inclined to provide any further information about us personally or about our business. We feel that you even writing this story is putting us in physical danger. Given that we have cancelled our December programs, and with the way the wind is blowing, it seems highly likely that we will be heading for another national shut down, it seems that these points are mooted. We don't foresee holding any training events in VT in the immediate future.

Thank you kindly,

Lisa