

February 3rd, 2021

Hon Moses Kirkconnell, JP, MLA
Deputy Premier
Minister of District Administration, Tourism and Transport

Dear Hon Moses Kirkconnell,

RE: CAYMAN CRAFT MARKET CLOSURE

We, the undersigned vendors of the Cayman Craft Market are writing to express our extreme disappointment and disgust at the sudden and disrespectful closing of the Cayman Craft Market (CCM) effective January 31st, 2021.

There are no words to describe the wonderful sense of unity and normality experienced and felt by us all at the recent reopening of the CCM just two weeks prior on January 15th 2021. The comradery shared on that day and the subsequent bi- weekly opening on 29 January with added live music can only be described as akin to a family reunion.

The Cayman Craft Market (CCM) is not just a craft market to us – it is a way and means to life. As artisans, it is our lifeline, our independence and our livelihood. As a majority of single women, we do not experience gender nor workplace discrimination at the CCM –we are all equal as crafters. This it is what puts food on our tables, sends our children to school and pays our bills year in and year out. As such, we take great pride and dignity in being front line ambassadors of our local tourism product.

Images of us creating and displaying our wares have been consistently used by DOT to market our country internationally -a long lost culture in today's fast developing world.

Being entrepreneurs trying to establish our own small businesses from this cottage industry, to deprive us of this venue is not only a personal attack on the many talented Caymanian individuals who display here daily but also a final opportunity to preserve and highlight a dying Caymanian culture.

We plead for your immediate intervention with the Tourism Attractions Board to revisit and reverse this impromptu closing of the CCM and continue to work with us in the spirit of partnership to show case what is best on our island.

Interactions with locals, have are always been met with warm friendly Caymankind smiles and networking opportunities with our visitors.

Though we are aware, the future is uncertain in this time of the Covid Pandemic, we must all presently play our part and we are prepared to do ours by daily and consistently frequenting the Cayman Craft Market and displaying our wares to sell as many of us have done for the past two decades.

Yours Sincerely,

Sylvia Ebanks

Janet Minzett

Belkis Ebanks

Karalyn Bush

Yvonne Chambers

Faith Campbell

Janet Minzett

Tracy Mullins

Jasmine Sumaroo

Gwen Bush

Melba Miller

Rosemae Ebanks

Josanni Fermin

Lila Beltran

Sherene Challenger

John Schirn

Deal Ebanks

Gennett Powell

Charles Bush

Yvonne Dell
Belkis Ebanks

Karalyn Bush

Yvonne Chambers

Janet Minzett

Tracy Mullins

Jasmine Sumaroo

Gwen Bush

Melba Miller

Rosemae Ebanks

Josanni Fermin

Lila Beltran

Sherene Challenger

John Schirn

Deal Ebanks

Gennett Powell

Charles Bush

We pray for your favorable request to reopen the Cayman Craft Market.

Reba Cowan Dell

Reba Cowan -
(Dilbert)

Sonia Miller

Sgt Local Handcraft

cc: Premier Alden McLaughlin
Deputy Governor Franz Manderson
Chief Officer Stran Bodden
Director of Tourism Rosa Harris
Director TAB Patrick Thompson