Twitter Thread by DJ Fredo



DJ Fredo
@RealDJFredo



1/ I want to share an experience I just had a few days ago at .@Costco.

I am posting this thread to raise awareness that people & companies should be more mindful of who they are dealing with no matter if we happen to be in a pandemic, or not, or anywhere in between.

2/ The short version: I will be canceling my membership of nearly 10 years & filing formal complaints to Costco Corporate as well as the proper govt regulatory departments for #Covid19 guidelines & ADA violations.

The long version:

A premise:

3/ Anyone who follows me, knows I am a-political in my professional life & on social media accounts/platforms. I try to remain politically neutral.

4/ I am also a law abiding citizen & during these trying times of #COVID19 govt mandates & guidelines (which have hurt our country immensely), I have done my best to abide by them.

5/ As such I've been wearing masks, to the point where I have developed a condition that no longer permits me to wear one for medical reasons.

6/ For my privacy I won't share private medical info, but sufficed to say, I can no longer tolerate masks for medical reasons in accordance to the Michigan Department of Health & Human Services (MDHHS) as can be read here:

https://t.co/s2Z8OcKwJw

7/ The regulations clearly state exceptions are allowed for individuals that can not medically tolerate face coverings.

On December 27, 2020 I went to the Costco Lakeside Warehouse to accompany my sister & disabled mother, as my mother needed a few things.

8/ I was just the muscle to do the heavy lifting. I also provide translation help as my mother speaks no English.

Due to the aforementioned medical necessity, I was not wearing a mask. I was allowed entry without any issue.

9/ I went about the store back to front, right to left with no issue as I accompanied and put things in the cart for my mother.

Once my mother was ready to pay, we went to the self check out machines. What transpired next was a deeply troubling & surreal experience.

10/ As my family was approaching the self checkout machines, an employee starting moving in my direction, yelling from a distance of 15 ft away that I need to put on a mask. I informed the employee that, as per MDHHS regulations, I was exempt.

11/ She yelled at me another two times to mask up ignoring what I had said, then turned away and went to get what I can only assume is a manager. At this point a woman with three male employees aggressively surrounded me, my sister and my disabled elderly mother.

12/ All of them berated me, yelled, and ignored anything I was saying. I had also brought with me a printout of the MDHHS mask guidelines in order to provide information in case they were ignorant of the regulations. They summarily ignored that printout as well.

13/ Ultimately another supervisor approached me from behind and joined the fray. In the span of 20-30 minutes I was verbally assaulted and was told amongst other things (I paraphrase):

- That .@Costco "Doesn't care" about the MDHHS regulations.

14/
- That MDHHS regulations "Don't apply here".
- That ".@Costco store policy is the law in here and not" the MDHHS regulations.
- .@Costco is under no obligation to abide by the MDHHS regulations because "it's a private corporation".

15/
- That .@Costco doesn't have to abide by any laws, local, State or Federal.

I was threatened multiple times with authorities being contacted.

16/ I was asked to leave my disabled elderly mother who speaks little to no English there if we wanted to complete the transaction, even though I wasn't shopping, my mother was.

17/ Upon learning that my mother was disabled, one of the employees shut off the checkout machine, thereby denying service to a person with a disability, in violation of the ADA.

18/ I was forced to reveal private medical information publicly in my attempts to explain the MDHHS regulations & why my case applied to the exception.

At the end the supervisor dispersed the remaining employees & allowed us to complete the transaction.

19/ However at this stage he still reiterated that they would not follow MDHHS regulations for medical exceptions & made it clear I was not welcome next time unless I wore a mask even though I can not medically tolerate one, all the while during this whole shameful display by…

20/ …Costco employees, none would social distance in accordance to MDHHS guidelines, and when asked to do so, blatantly refused stating "I will not".

21/ As we were surrounded and boxed in by cart and checkout machine, there was no way for us to move to increase the distance between us and Costco employees.

22/ All in all, I am appalled & dismayed that after nearly 10 years of membership, .@Costco would treat a loyal customer in such a fashion. I (nor my family) no longer feel welcome or safe at Costco.

23/ As mentioned I fully intend to file complaints & grievances with the appropriate entities.

24/ I'm disappointed that legitimate medical conditions & people with disabilities are met with scorn, beratement, rudeness & threats for merely having a medical condition in a time of heightened alertness to a flu with a 99.98% survivability rate.

25/ Regardless of the dangers of Covid, we mustn't lose reason, logic, respect for the law & our humanity.

26/ In conclusion I will be documenting any further instances of violations of laws, my rights and flagrant disregard for regulatory guidelines and mandates because I know...

27/ unfortunately, in the present climate that has been harbored by politicians, media and social media, this won't be the first nor last time this will happen.