“We are aware of the wildly inaccurate and seriously defamatory claims being circulated online about our venues. We realize that this campaign has also manifested itself by sending libelous emails to regulatory agencies, councils and commissions. We understand that these allegations, petitions and the associated defamatory social medial campaign originate from an individual who was involved in an incident that occurred outside of P.T. O’Malley’s in September of 2019.

Someone who makes such outrageous claims against many individuals and businesses, should be held to a high standard of truth. We will not waste our time going through the minutia of all the false allegations brought up by this person and provide them with any degree of credibility. But we will address the foundational claim that everything else is built upon.

This person claims that in September 2019, she was assaulted at P.T. O’Malley’s by our staff. In fact, she assaulted our female manager outside PTs rear entrance by kicking that manager in the stomach. This happened in front of numerous witnesses. There is a video that was taken by a bystander that shows the assault on our manager. As a result of this incident, this person has started a defamatory social media campaign founded on her untrue allegation about being assaulted at PTs, and no one questions her veracity. This should not be the case.

At least one reputable organization came to the same conclusion. This person and her followers state that they had a petition to close down Harper’s placed on change.org, a nationally renowned petition organization. They further stated that this petition was “shutdown by people (most likely by friends and family of harpers)”, another fabrication. The Riley family does not have any control over change.org. What this person and her followers won’t tell anyone, is that the reason the petition was taken down is that it failed to meet change.org’s community standards, was found to be defamatory, and was removed from the site by change.org.

We are not racists, nor are we a racist organization. We do not tolerate sexual harassment of any employee. We are a family business that has given back extensively to our community for the past 23 years. We have employed over 5,000 diverse employees over these years, and the overwhelming support they have shown us during these difficult times has been demonstrative of how we operate and treat our employees. If anyone would like to question our commitment to a safe operating environment, we refer them to Linda Vail, Health Officer of the Ingham County Health Department (or any of her staff), regarding our hygiene, sanitation methodologies and health inspection records.

Through these trying times of social media bullying by this individual, we have tried to remain calm and strong. It is extremely difficult not to pay attention to this endless stream of contemptable and defamatory statements about our businesses and our
family, but we will persevere. Eventually we believe that the media will realize that they are being used to fulfill personal vendettas and will treat this campaign for what it is, cyber bullying. Hopefully the people who created this type of activity will be ignored and relegated to where they belong, the dustbin of history.

Nevertheless, we take these libelous accusations seriously and will continue to consult with our legal team regarding further actions.”

Trisha and Pat Riley
Owners of Harper’s Restaurant & Brewpub and PT O’Malley’s