

Debra Thompson

From: Sharon Hunter <akhunters@ak.net>
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2020 4:21 PM
To: Assembly
Subject: Emergency health mandate

Dear members of the Borough Assembly,

I want to thank all of you for your time and commitment to serving our community through this difficult time when so many decisions must be negotiated to balance safety, education, economics and health. In order for you to make the best possible decisions for Petersburg I believe it is important that you hear from community members expressing a variety of thoughts and ideas on our way forward as we negotiate the unprecedented situation in which we find ourselves.

The latest discussion by the assembly was focused on one vocal point of view opposed to creating an organized set of emergency measures which could be rapidly implemented in the event of sudden changes in not only responding to the pandemic but in the case of any other evolving events calling for a prepared organized response. It is one of the most important roles of our assembly as the body of civic leaders to ensure that such preparedness has indeed been thought out and can be implemented when a rapid response is needed, though apparently it is also one of the most difficult. It has become obvious that no plan will garner 100% support but a plan must be in place and it is your responsibility as a body to come together on this and provide one. As regards the pandemic the plan needs to follow guidelines provided by the evidence based science which is evolving daily regarding Covid-19 and the best source is the CDC. The guidelines from our national public health experts supports prevention of transmission as the number one best practice and this means masking in public places. The wearing of masks for reduction of viral transmission would allow a return to near normal activity right now but for sure a mandate must be a possible intervention in the case of community spread in Petersburg.

And please reassure people that they will not risk having their children and guns confiscated even if they have to wear a mask into a store.

Thank you,
Sharon Hunter