

Debra Thompson

From: Donna Marsh <dwmarsh430@msn.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 2, 2020 12:35 PM
To: Assembly
Subject: Proposal on 2020-19, Chapter 3.72

Dear Borough Assembly Members and Mayor,

Please vote NO on making this ordinance permanent.

After careful consideration of the proposed ordinance 2020-19, to make Chapter 3.72 of the Petersburg Municipal Code permanent, I have resoundingly come to the conclusion this is another very bad idea.

Already in state statute and in borough code have laws and regulations been put in place in case of emergencies, deemed such by credible and authorized entities. The key here is *in emergencies*. It is not possible to encompass every possible civil emergency yet to have a plan in place to make operative at such a time is the more reasonable, limited government option.

I believe in limited government. I believe that if this ordinance is made permanent, the borough government in its increasing breadth, depth, and reach will only gain more control over the lives of the people of this community, their opportunities to go about their lives as they deem appropriate including pursuing the economic activities that feed this town.

Any emergency order, ordinance, resolution or rule that is made permanent to govern in a time of "non-emergency" has run amok.

Regarding the handling of the current Covid-19 situation in the Emergency: In what ways have you, the assembly and administrators of this borough, including the EOC, been hamstrung in implementing emergency measures that would have been easier to accomplish had Chapter 3.72 already been made permanent at the initial formation of the borough? I would dare say none.

The key players specified in this ordinance will change: and so will their interpretations of this code as detailed and spelled out as it is. If made permanent, this code does not have sufficient checks and balances in it to prevent misuse.

I would propose that instead, a regulation be established that says something like: "In case of a civil emergency, Chapter 3.72 will become effective upon such a date and expire within 7 days."

Thank you for your time in serving in the Petersburg Borough Assembly.

Kind regards,
Donna Marsh