

## Debra Thompson

---

**From:** Cris Morrison <srstrong99833@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 15, 2020 8:26 AM  
**To:** Assembly  
**Subject:** Now is not the time - Proposed ordinance 2020-19

Dear Assembly Members;

I am opposed to Ordinance #2020-19, "An Ordinance Amending Borough Code Chapter 3.72 to Provide for Civil Emergency Provisions," as currently drafted. However, I am not going to present my argument against it at this time. Instead, I am going to explain why I think NOW is not the time to consider said ordinance.

We are in the midst of a pandemic. For the most part, decisions made and actions taken by the Assembly during the past several months have been necessary and temporary in nature. Due to the precautions put into place and through no fault of the Assembly, they have also been made and taken without benefit of effective communication with Borough citizens . . . which is understandable and acceptable in times of crisis or emergency. However, governing via teleconference is insufficient and unacceptable when decisions and actions will now be permanent.

Effective communication with a governing body cannot be achieved via unreliable telecommunication methods or e-mail. Citizens deserve to have the opportunity to stand at the lectern and address Assembly Members face-to-face when expressing their position on an issue; Assembly Members deserve to have the opportunity to question citizens if they don't understand the points of that position. Neither is effectively achieved under the current protocols, which prevent participants from reading a person's face and body language or adequately interpreting the inflection in their voice.

I don't believe that it is necessary to pass this ordinance at this time. The world is still navigating its way through the pandemic. There is still much to learn about COVID-19, especially its long-term effects. There is uncertainty affecting most aspects of our lives. The local populace is currently experiencing a range of emotions: fear, anger, frustration, apprehension, confusion, weariness, mistrust, resentment. Now is NOT the time to pass a permanent ordinance that will serve to heighten those emotions.

Now is a time for calm, measured leadership. When the dust settles and the air clears (so to speak), that will be the time to address a permanent plan for action in times like this.

I urge the Assembly to abandon or table this measure indefinitely. There will be adequate time on the other side of this pandemic to address it with the community.

Respectfully,

Ms. Cris Morrison