

Debra Thompson

From: Bill Tremblay <btrembla@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 19, 2020 10:43 AM
To: Assembly
Cc: Stephen Giesbrecht; Debra Thompson
Subject: Please Approve Ordinance 2020-19 to Provide for Civil Emergency Provisions

Dear Assembly Members;

As presented to the Assembly, Ordinance 2020-19 is a reasonable update to the Borough codes that provides direction for actions (if necessary) to protect the general welfare of our community. There are checks and balances for actions and allows for oversight in a timely manner. It is consistent with your oath of office to uphold the Constitution of the United States as stated in the preamble which notes the intent for actions for "We the People".

The current pandemic is not going away; but is in fact spreading. By the time you meet, the United States will have close to 7 million people infected with Covid-19 and more than 200,000 people dead. Even though the President was calling the spread of this virus "a hoax" (even up through July), he knew as early as late January that this virus was more deadly than the flu and that it would spread through the air.

Alaska's chief medical officer (Dr. Zink) made comments on Alaska Public Media last Thursday night. In summary, she acknowledges that we've learned a lot about Covid-19 spreads through talking, singing, and being in close proximity to each other. The virus affects the heart, kidneys, and the brain; besides the lungs. You can spread it without knowing you have it as symptoms can come anytime within 14 days of a person being infected. Also, masks work, the data is just really clear on it now that they work not only to prevent you from spreading it to others, but they can also prevent you from getting it to the same degree. Also, masks work, the data is just really clear on it now that they work not only to prevent you from spreading it to others, but they can also prevent you from getting it to the same degree. Last, she has concerns for this fall and winter as people migrate indoors will increase the potential for exposure to the virus.

There is no vaccine. The Center for Disease Control is estimating that if a vaccine is developed, it's likely to take until later in 2021 to be shared.

Actions have been taken by the communities of Kake, Angoon, and Juneau over the last few months to restrict travel or to curtail businesses because of covid outbreaks. The United States Supreme Court has found (in two cases) that actions can be taken to limit gatherings (even religious ones) for public health concerns. The Alaska Supreme Court also found that Anchorage could limit or close businesses for public health concerns as well.

You keep tools in the tool box so they are there when you need them. This ordinance is what is needed to be prepared to protect our community.

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