

September 18, 2020

Dear Mayor Jensen and Borough Assembly Members-

I'm writing today in opposition to Ordinance 2020-19. In reading it, it seems to imply that there is an imminent threat to the community.

In regards to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are past the dreaded influx of people associated with the fishing industry and tourism. To my knowledge, we have not had a community case since July 3. There are far more people leaving the state than coming into it. Bars have been open, along with the community pool, and some restaurants with no cases resulting from these social mingling's. School has been in session, there are birthday sleepovers, kids playing in playgrounds and on the street just like old times, and still no cases.

As for other disasters, there already exists an incident command comprising of the Chief of Police, the hospital, EMT's and the fire department. From what I see, they are more than capable of handling any disastrous incidents that may arise that will require swift action.

I feel so confident in their abilities, that I would offer that the current incident commander be relieved of his duties and get back to his job he was hired for. His designation as incident commander was at a time when we knew little of the pandemic. We know much more now, and it seems much less likely than it did in March that there will be a major outbreak requiring a large amount of hospitalizations for COVID-19. There were a lot of justifiable "what ifs" in March. None of them happened. It is good to be prepared, but it is also a poor idea to throw resources and energy at what is appearing to be a minor issue rather than a cataclysmic event.

The borough named an incident commander once already, and they can do it again should the need arise. Defining that position in ordinance rather gives the impression that it will be a permanent position, and compensation would be required. I don't believe that would be a necessary expense given history and the rough road that lies ahead for our local, regions, and states economies.

This ordinance doesn't fix something that's broken, something that has failed. It just sets up the local governments ability to control personal economies based on the whim of an individual. Individuals are human and subject to mistakes. I am more comfortable with the assembly taking the lead in such draconian decisions as closing businesses or implementing curfews.

Regards,



Max Worhatch