From: rickgbraun@gmail.com
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2020 7:58 PM
To: Assembly
Subject: Civil Emergency Provisions Ordinance 2020-19

Borough Assembly

I recommend the Borough Assemble pass the Civil Emergency Provisions Ordinance 2020-19. Borough administration and the Incident Commander (IC) should have all the tools they need to deal with current and future emergencies. When communicating with other local, state and federal agencies during the emergency the IC needs to be working under the same standardized rules and procedures as the other agencies.

I've read many of the objections to this ordinance as expressed by Petersburg citizens. I do not share their views. Where is the greater danger? With the passage of this ordinance, is there really a danger of official over-reach and abuse of power. Is there really a danger of people losing their first and second amendment rights. These are straw man arguments. I feel the greater danger is in not passing this ordinance and our officials will not be equipped with the tools they need to deal with unforeseen circumstances.

A year ago, how many of us were aware of the dangers and consequences of a global pandemic? Not many. The next emergency could also be one that no one anticipates or is ready for. The officials responsible for responding to emergencies must be able to move quickly and decisively. Waiting for the Borough Assembly to convene, become informed about the circumstances and vote on the right course of action could take hours or days. The decision to act, to save life and property may need to be made in minutes.

If at some point during the emergency, it has been determined that officials overstepped their authority and citizens rights were ignored, the assembly can correct the situation and replace officials if necessary. The ultimate authority lies with our elected assembly members. I am confident that the democratic process is in no danger with the passage of this ordinance.

Sincerely,
Rick Braun

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