

**Debra Thompson**

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**From:** Cindi Lagoudakis <trembladakis@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 21, 2020 4:36 PM  
**To:** Assembly  
**Subject:** Emergency Ordinance #2020-19  
**Attachments:** Ordinance.pdf

Please see the attached letter on the upcoming ordinance hearing. The Borough Clerk or other Borough representative may read the letter into the record of tonight's meeting.

I also want to express my thanks to the EOC for their quick, thoughtful and calm approach to the COVID emergency. I know it has not been without personal stress and an impact to their time and other jobs, personal or professional.

Cindi Lagoudakis

Petersburg Borough Assembly  
PO Box 329  
Petersburg, AK 99833

Sept. 21, 2020

Dear Borough Assembly,

I am writing in support of passing the updated Borough Code Chapter 3.72 To Provide for Civil Emergency Provisions. As someone who has been involved in local, regional and national emergency response operations, I understand the value of pre-planning including identification of and coordination with responsible parties, outlining emergency executive scope of authority, and the provision for continuation of operations. These are fundamental to protection of life and property, whether or not all potentially affected individuals understand and agree with the need for those actions.

Some of those actions may temporarily restrict civil liberties if engaging in those actions endangers oneself or puts others at increased risk for injury or death. I accept these potential temporary restrictions as my responsibility for being a member of a civil society.

Due to the controversy over this proposed ordinance, I investigated emergency declaration ordinances from other areas. The communities looked at were Wasilla, Alaska; Tucson, Arizona; and Tangipahoa, Louisiana—purposely selected as representative of more politically conservative communities.

All three of these communities have emergency plans identifying who can declare an emergency, the duration of an emergency, who may alter or amend or rescind a declaration, and potential restrictions including public assemblage, sheltering in place, limits to business operations, access to areas, as well as the legal authorities and penalties associated with a declaration.

Tangipahoa in particular is another Home Rule government, whose head is a Parish President. Their plan stipulates that at any time during an emergency, any of the Parish President, Sheriff, Fire Chief, Police Chief, University Police, Incident Command and HSEP [Homeland Security Emergency Preparation] Director could implement access controls (block roads or restrict access to areas), respiratory control (limiting public movement to reduce risk from airborne contamination), issue shelter-in-place directives or enforce evacuation. Other communities have similar provisions.

These plans make sense, have saved lives, and sought to limit other damages. While I understand that some members of the Borough public are concerned first and foremost with their autonomy, they may not reserve the right to put other members of our community at unreasonable risk. The Petersburg Borough ordinance makes sense, clarifies roles and responsibilities, and does not set precedence. It is everyone's fervent hope that these plans are not needed. However, when an emergency occurs, it is critical to have roles, responsibilities and other regulations in place. I urge you to pass this ordinance.

Respectfully,

Cindi Lagoudakis