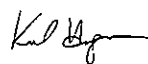

MEMORANDUM

TO: MAYOR JENSEN AND BOROUGH ASSEMBLY
FROM: KARL HAGERMAN, EOC INCIDENT COMMANDER 
SUBJECT: COMMUNITY RISK COMMUNICATION PLAN – APPROVAL RECOMMENDATION
DATE: 12/30/2020
CC: STEVE GIESBRECHT, BOROUGH MANAGER
DEBRA THOMPSON, BOROUGH CLERK

A month after the introduction of the draft Community Risk Communication Plan, the EOC is recommending that it be approved for use.

The EOC did receive a few comments from the public, which we are working on adding to the dashboard, but the bulk of the comments were focused on adding additional information in regard to vaccinations, testing differentiation or maintaining linked access to other information sources that people have found useful. I am supportive of almost all suggestions that were received. I don't see the suggested changes as substantial and they will only serve to provide additional pandemic data to Petersburg's citizens which should further the understanding of where our COVID-19 risk stands as a community at any point in time.

As of the writing of this memo, we have already seen two new positive cases in Petersburg related to holiday travel. It may seem like we are turning the corner on the pandemic with vaccinations being available to priority groups in the community, but we cannot let down our guard yet. The Risk Communication plan will be a good guide to the community if we see a rise in cases associated with the holidays as predicted by the CDC and State of Alaska.

The plan continues to be a recommendation to the community and not a series of mandates – except for face coverings which is a mandate currently. The EOC will be using the plan and dashboard to communicate the best practices and precautions to our citizens and businesses. The goal is to keep new cases to a minimum and prevent the spread in the community. As we have seen across the country, a surge in new cases is followed by a surge in hospitalizations, which is then followed by a surge in fatalities. While it is no guarantee that we won't have a positive case that becomes very ill after being infected, keeping our case count low is the best way to mitigate a larger impact to our community.

Please let me know if there are any questions or if the Assembly has any other changes that they would like to see incorporated into the plan or dashboard. Thank you.