



SANDYSTON TOWNSHIP

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Governor Phil Murphy - Hypocrisy and Delusion

Dear Elected Officials:

As Mayor of the very small Municipality of Sandyston Township in Northwestern Sussex County, I have been very mindful of all of Governor Murphy's Orders during the COVID 19. But today his Hypocrisy and Delusion have brought me to speak out. BUT I do not want this to be about the actual issue that precipitated from the George Floyd killing – I am appalled by the actions of those bad police officers. I want for all Americans - equality in treatment and opportunity and I in no way want this to be about the issues sparking the anger and protest in this country.

What I want to express, is the unbelievable power grab and discrimination of our business owners that have been shutdown by Governor Murphy in the name of the public good. Up till now all those Executive Orders seemed to have a purpose even if not based in any fairness or fact. Why Big Box stores could be essential, and the Mom and Pop stores were not was never explained. Why the big box stores would not threaten and overwhelm our health system, but Mom and Pop stores would - was never explained. But we went along as good citizens and they have suffered while the big box has prospered. And this was replicated right down the line repressing those that really had no powerful voice – all our small business. Sussex County was largely spared the COVID 19 Pandemic if you take out SOME of our nursing homes and long-term care facilities – and Governor Murphy is now going to great lengths to disavow any responsibility for those tragedies – just compare Florida to NJ in the nursing home and long-term care death rate in the two states.

But now the great Hypocrisy is being fed to us – we are witnessing huge gatherings with no social distancing in the protests in our cities and our Governor is not only condoning this he is encouraging peaceful protest. When asked about the violation of his own executive orders for public gatherings and social distancing – the response is this is a bigger thing and cracking down on this would require the National Guard and possible increased violence and unrest. OK ----but the rest of us are expected to follow the rules he has made – mostly arbitrarily – without PROTEST ----- really --- really.

Here is the last straw for me – today he FINALLY announced restaurants would be allowed outdoor dining starting on June 15th. And the establishments with a liquor license would have to apply for a permit – a permit???? They already pay for a LICENSE each year \$700 in our township. Oh - also they will have to submit a plan showing their outdoor dining areas and prove they will be complying with social distancing and have to PAY a \$75 FEE – another licensing FEE! And this will start June 15th and you can start to apply for the ADDITIONAL LICENSE on June 5th.

First – what jurisdiction does the ABC have in regulating social distancing

Second – most of our establishments already have a license for their entire property and have had outdoor events and outdoor dining.

Third – who in their right mind could even fathom that the State of New Jersey could process ALL THESE NEW LICENSES IN 10 DAYS. Almost 3 months and we still have people who DON'T have their unemployment YET.

Governor Phil Murphy – Hypocrisy and Delusion

June 4, 2020

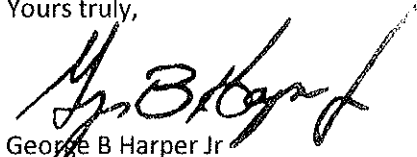
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Fourth – How will the ABC judge the applications for the site plan of operation – do they have boots on the ground and can analyze all the land use issues related to the actual physical operation. This is a DELUSIONAL DREAM the GREAT and POWERFUL MURPHY has with no plan to actually perform what is required (reference to the GREAT and POWERFUL WIZARD of OZ – pay no attention to the man behind the curtain and when in the balloon to fly Dorothy home – I don't know how to fly this thing)

Governor Murphy – with all due respect, you and the NJ ABC have no business further regulating establishments of plenary retail consumption whose license encompasses their entire property – inside and out. The Local Municipalities are the only ones that should regulate any expansion of outside dining and enforce the safety measures that will ensure the safe operation of those establishments while this COVID 19 Pandemic is still a threat. Do not encourage thousands to gather in protest and juvenily ask them to where a mask while doing so and continue your destruction of our economy with your discriminatory orders. We should be afforded the same encouragement as those protesters – be smart in our actions, choose your risk you take and where a mask when appropriate. Enough is enough, people can take better care of themselves – we flattened the curve, we did not overwhelm the health care system, we have done our part – it is time you get OUT OF THE WAY and let people get on with there lives self-assessing ALL RISKS IN LIFE and acting appropriately.

Respectfully submitted with reverence for those whose protests are filled with hope for the change that will stop acts like the George Floyd killing and encouraging all people to think for themselves and act accordingly to benefit all Americans and do something proactive in our society, and after these protests fade, to follow through and make a difference.

Yours truly,



George B Harper Jr

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cc: Governor Phil Murphy

Senator Steven V. Oroho

Assemblyman Harold J. Wirths

Assemblyman F. Parker Space

Congressman Josh Gottheimer

Congresswoman Mikie Sherrill

Sussex County Municipalities

Sussex County Board of Chosen Freeholders