



Board of Chosen Freeholders

County of Hunterdon
71 Main Street, Building #1
PO Box 2900
Flemington, NJ 08822-2900

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: November 18, 2020

Contact: Shaun C. Van Doren, Freeholder Director

Shaun.vandoren@co.hunterdon.nj.us

John E. Lanza, Freeholder

John.lanza@co.hunterdon.nj.us

Hunterdon Freeholders Assure County Businesses Of No Interference With Hours Of Operations

Stating that that private businesses know better than government how to ensure the protection of the health of their customers and employees, while still being economically feasible, Hunterdon County's Freeholder Board, at the November 17th meeting, approved a county policy not to interfere with private business operations with regard to hours of operation.

The Freeholders' action comes in response to Governor Phil Murphy's executive order #195 delegating authority to counties and municipalities to regulate the operating hours of non-essential businesses after 8:00 p.m.

Freeholder Board Director Shaun C. Van Doren stated, "I believe this is another area where the philosophy of this Board diverges from the Governor's. We see private business people as best positioned to make these decisions, not the government."

Freeholder John E. Lanza, in sponsoring the resolution, said, "Businesses know their customers and know they must market health safety right now. Those presently in operation in Hunterdon County already require customers and employees to wear masks, observe social distancing, and follow health mandates as directed by the state and county Departments of Health and the CDC. They don't need the nanny state looking over their shoulder."

The resolution notes that the Governor's previous orders shutting down businesses throughout the state earlier in the year and restricting their re-opening has resulted in the closing of many businesses, tens of thousands of lost jobs, and economic devastation across New Jersey.

Lanza suggested the resolution be forwarded to the Warren and Sussex County Freeholder Boards to encourage a regional approach. He noted the three counties joined forces in May to create a regional 'Gateway to Resources for Business Re-opening' website, providing the latest information on the best practices for commercial re-openings and that encouraged the Governor to permit regional re-openings of business.



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Van Doren concluded, “We learned that shutting down badly damaged the economy and put people out of work. At the time the Freeholders called on the Governor to recognize that different regions are affected differently by the corona virus spread. In delegating this authority, the Governor has recognized we were correct.”

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY
COUNTY OF HUNTERDON**

**RESOLUTION
#2020 – 686**

**Resolution Establishing a Business
Non-Interference Policy in Hunterdon County**

WHEREAS, on November 12, 2020, New Jersey's Governor enacted executive order #195, delegating authority to counties and municipalities to regulate the operating hours of non-essential businesses after 8:00 p.m. to manage the recent surge in the corona virus; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's previous orders shutting down businesses throughout the state earlier in the year and restricting their re-opening has resulted in the closing of many businesses, tens of thousands of lost jobs, and economic devastation across New Jersey, and

WHEREAS, businesses presently in operation in Hunterdon County already require customers and employees to wear masks, observe social distancing, following health mandates as directed by the state government and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC); and

WHEREAS, the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders believe that private businesses know far better than government how to ensure the protection of the health of their customers and employees, while still being economically feasible; and

WHEREAS, additional restrictions placed on private businesses, particularly restaurants and other small retailers, could result in their permanent closure which will lead to greater economic harm, additional layoffs, and the devastation of local downtowns for years to come;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders that no action will be taken by the County to interfere with, reduce the hours of, or close down private businesses in Hunterdon County under the circumstances authorized by Executive Order #195.

| ROLL CALL | MOVED | SECONDED | AYES | NAYS | ABSTAIN | ABSENT |
|-----------------------------------|-------|----------|------|------|---------|--------|
| Shaun C. Van Doren, Director | | | X | | | |
| Susan J. Soloway, Deputy Director | | X | X | | | |
| John E. Lanza, Freeholder | X | | X | | | |
| J. Matthew Holt, Freeholder | | | X | | | |
| Zachary T. Rich, Freeholder | | | X | | | |

ADOPTED November 17, 2020

Brad Myhre, CLERK