



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: June 30, 2020

Contact: Shaun C. Van Doren, Freeholder Director

Shaun.vandoren@co.hunterdon.nj.us

Susan J. Soloway, Freeholder Deputy Director

Susan.soloway@co.hunterdon.nj.us

Hunterdon Freeholders Call For Indoor Dining To Be Allowed In Northwest Jersey

Freeholders To Governor: One Size Does Not Fit All

Freeholder Director Shaun C. Van Doren and Deputy Director Susan J. Soloway have called on Governor Murphy to recognize the ‘one size fits all’ business re-opening plan does not work, and to allow Hunterdon County and Northwest New Jersey restaurants to host limited indoor dining for the coming July 4th weekend, for which many have already prepared.

Van Doren and Soloway, in a letter to the Governor, stated, “Numerous restaurants in Hunterdon County and across the State of New Jersey continue to face severe economic hardship and despite their best efforts they have faced challenges in offering outdoor dining. Now they have invested in preparations for indoor dining only to have the rug pulled out at the last moment.”

Freeholder Director Van Doren stated, “Last month, the Freeholder Boards of Hunterdon, Warren, and Sussex Counties called upon Governor Murphy to utilize a regional approach to reopening. Such an approach would recognize the low COVID-19 numbers in our region and can avoid a one size fits all approach to policy making.”

Van Doren also added, “Because of the actions of a few bad actors at the Jersey Shore, Hunterdon County delis, cafes, pizzerias, taverns, and other mom and pop restaurants are going to be punished.”

Deputy Director Soloway, a liaison to the County’s Economic Development Office stated, “While initially dismissed by the Governor’s Office, the Regional Re-opening plan was sound public policy that should have been strongly considered by Governor Murphy. The Hunterdon County Freeholder Board has all along sought to provide reasonable ideas to restart our state’s economy in a responsible manner – whether it be retail curbside pickup, appointment-based shopping, and a regional reopening strategy.”

Soloway also noted, “Many of our restaurants situated in downtowns across Hunterdon County simply do not have adequate space to provide for outdoor dining and as such, continue to offer takeout only. Despite government-imposed restrictions, we expect these same restaurant owners to continue to retain staff and pay their bills on time including local property taxes.”



Board of Chosen Freeholders

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

MEDIA RELEASE

“Numerous restaurant owners across Hunterdon County have assured me that they are committed to responsible reopening because their livelihood depends upon it. It’s completely unfair to assume a family run cafe in Stockton Borough is comparable to a beach bar at the shore for example,” noted Van Doren.

Hunterdon’s Freeholders have sought to do their part in helping residents and businesses alike through these challenging times by keeping the 2020 Hunterdon County tax rate flat for the second consecutive year.