Borough of Old Tappan - Coronavirus Update 03/21/2020

Dear Old Tappan Residents;

This is Old Tappan Mayor John M. Kramer with a CoVid-19 pandemic update. I noted in my previous message that we have had 8 confirmed cases, the actual number is 7 confirmed cases, one which unfortunately passed away. We have not been advised of any additional cases.

Today, the Governor of New Jersey issued additional executive orders on closures and social distancing that take effect at 9 PM tonight. Everyone in New Jersey must follow these orders to help slow down the spread of coronavirus.

Some of the provisions are as described below.

“Stay at home” order: All residents are to stay at home or at their place of residence unless they are leaving for the following reasons:
1) Obtaining goods or services from essential retail businesses;
2) Obtaining takeout or food beverages from restaurants;
3) Seeking medical attention, essential social services, or assistance from law enforcement;
4) Visiting family or close friends, caretakers, or romantic partners;
5) Reporting to or performing their job;
6) Walking, running, or engaging in outdoor activities with immediate family, caretakers, household members, or romantic partners;
7) Leaving for an educational, religious, or political reason;
8) Leaving because of a reasonable fear for health or safety; or
9) Leaving at the direction of law enforcement or other government agency.

10) Individuals who have to travel must practice social distancing when possible and should use public transportation only if they have no other feasible choice.

Cancelling gatherings: Gatherings of individuals, such as parties, celebrations, or other social events, are cancelled.

Closing non-essential retail businesses: All non-essential retail businesses, which were previously limited to between 5 am and 8 pm, must now close entirely (online delivery can continue). The list of essential retail businesses that can stay open is limited to the following:
1) Grocery and food stores, including retailers like Walmart/Target that sell food;
2) Pharmacies and medical marijuana dispensaries;
3) Medical supply stores;
4) Gas stations;
5) Convenience stores;
6) Ancillary stores within healthcare facilities;
7) Hardware and home improvement stores;
8) Banks and other financial institutions;
9) Laundromats/dry-cleaning services;
10) Stores that principally sell supplies for children under five years old;
11) Pet stores;
12) Liquor stores;
13) Car dealerships, but only for auto maintenance and repair, and auto mechanics;
14) Printing and office supply shops;
15) Mail and delivery stores.

Timing: The order will go into effect at 9PM tonight to accommodate the end of the sabbath. It will stay in effect until the Governor revokes or modifies it.

Please Note:
• The Borough Hall remains closed to the public. Administrative staff has been reduced and essential functions have been prioritized and operating hours are from 9am to 3pm. Please check website before calling the Borough Hall @ 201-664-1849 to speak with a Borough employee.
• Drop boxes for paper communications with various Borough Departments are in the Entry Vestibule in the front of the building. There is a mailbox in the front of the building for before or after hour drop-off.
• Essential Services workers: Police and DPW are working regular patrol shifts and hours.
• Dial 911 if you are having an actual emergency.
• If you are having symptoms of the Coronavirus/COVID-19 but no medical emergency, please call your healthcare provider first.
• The playgrounds and sports fields (including Basketball Courts) in Old Tappan have been and remain closed. Parks are open for passive recreation ONLY and with users observing social distancing protocols.

Please continue to practice CDC protocols regarding, frequent hand washing, surface cleansing, social distancing and avoidance of large groups. These methods are proven to significantly mitigate the spread of viral infections like CoVid-19

Stay safe,
Mayor John M. Kramer