

**LAFAYETTE TOWNSHIP
SUSSEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

RESOLUTION 2020-39

A CALL FOR REGIONAL REOPENING OF BUSINESSES

A Resolution urging Governor Murphy to reopen businesses in Lafayette Township and New Jersey in the immediate future.

WHEREAS, the Sussex County Chamber of Commerce on August 20, 2020 gave testimony before the New Jersey Assembly Commerce and Economic Development Committee urging the State consider a regionalized reopening strategy for New Jersey businesses based upon the degree of disease; and

WHEREAS, Lafayette Township businesses are prepared and New Jersey's economy needs to open before more businesses are lost as outlined in the "Gateway to Resources for Business Re-opening" prepared by the regional coalition of Hunterdon, Sussex and Warren Counties; and

WHEREAS, the regional coalition expressed its concern in a May 28, 2020 letter to the Governor expressing its on-going concern with the "one size fits all" approach to the reopening of the State's economy and the regional precedent for reopening businesses based upon local conditions; and

WHEREAS, the citizens and leaders of Lafayette Township have demonstrated their ability to take proper precautions and measures to control the spread of the virus, which has resulted in the lowest infection rate and lowest new daily cases per capita in the entirety of the State; and

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey's own COVID-19 Activity Level Report for the weeks of August 8 and 15, 2020 show the current activity level for the Northwest (which comprises Sussex, Morris, Passaic and Warren Counties) as low with a COVID-19 Activity Level Index (CALI) Score of 1 (the lowest possible score); and

WHEREAS, the call for a regional approach to opening, based on data, if there is not a willingness by the Governor to fully reopen the State for business, is a reasonable approach inasmuch as decisive action is needed immediately so businesses will know whether to plan for a further reopening now or a prolonged limit on their business.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of Lafayette concurs with statements made and reasons given by our businesses and elected leaders reflected above and notes that the uncertainties and economic damage to Lafayette Township reflected therein are not economically sustainable and urges Governor Phil Murphy to seriously consider and plan with our leaders for a safe and regional reopening of our businesses in the immediate future; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this Resolution be forwarded forthwith to the Governor, State Senate, State Assembly, each State and Congressional elected official representing any portion of Sussex County, the New Jersey Business Coalition and the Sussex County Chamber of Commerce.

CERTIFICATION

Certified as a true copy of a Resolution adopted by the Lafayette Township Committee, Sussex County, New Jersey at a meeting held on September 1, 2020.

Anna Rose Fedish, RMC
Municipal Clerk