Debra Thompson

From: Bill Tremblay <brtrembla@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 1, 2020 10:13 AM
To: Civil Emergency
Cc: Assembly; Stephen Giesbrecht; Debra Thompson
Subject: Fwd: NYTimes.com: Supreme Court, in 5-4 Decision, Rejects Church's Challenge to Shutdown Order

Dear Covid-19 Response Team, Assembly, Borough Manager, and Borough Clerk;

I've attached an article from the New York Times discussing the court decision regarding government action to treat houses of worship like businesses when addressing public health issues; such as Covid-19. It should be noted that the Supreme Court affirmed this position a second time when a religious group challenged the State of Nevada along these same lines.

Covid-19 is a virus that makes no distinction regarding which group meets. This was unfortunately demonstrated when a Mt. Vernon, Washington church choir met for practice in March of this year and had 45 of the 60 members attending practice come down with Covid-19 symptoms 20 days after their practice (2 people at the time of the reporting had died).

There is no vaccine for this virus. Even though efforts have been made by many in our community to exercise common sense by wearing masks, keeping distances from each other, and washing hands; there are plenty of examples of people not practicing these recommendations or ignoring them all together. Some on the Assembly assert that people should be taking "personal responsibility" for their protections but all you have to do is to walk around town to see that people just won't do this. My wife and I have both had to ask people to "step back" (sometimes assertively) and stand in lines with people not wearing masks (even though businesses/buildings have clearly posted people to act appropriately).

I support the ordinance as proposed. When there is a public health concern (like the current pandemic), we need to rely on our medical professionals to help direct us to protect our community. The discussion is about our general welfare as stated in the preamble of our Constitution. It isn't about "individual rights", as some protest, since we've seen that many rights provided in our constitution have been clarified to benefit the general public over time. (Examples: you can't yell "fire" in a crowded theater as a joke; many states now have "red flag" laws that can lawfully take guns away from persons who pose a threat.)

I appreciate all of the efforts taken in our community to keep us informed and safe. This ordinance is one more tool for our tool chest.

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From: **Bill Tremblay** <brtrembla@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, Sep 1, 2020 at 7:59 AM

Subject: NYTimes.com: Supreme Court, in 5-4 Decision, Rejects Church's Challenge to Shutdown Order
To: <brtrembla@gmail.com>

From The New York Times:

Supreme Court, in 5-4 Decision, Rejects Church's Challenge to Shutdown Order

A California church argued that restrictions on public gatherings treated houses of worship worse than many businesses.

https://www.nytimes.com/2020/05/30/us/supreme-court-churches-coronavirus.html?smid=em-share

Sent from my iPad