

## **Message from Mayor Frank Sippel – April 29, 2020**

Hello this is Lower Township Mayor Frank Sippel for a brief weekly update. First, I would like to start off and thank everyone for your effort in stopping the spread of the coronavirus. The measures in place are working. This past Monday Governor Murphy presented a six-step plan with the possibility of easing some restrictions. In my view, the plan was vague and didn't communicate much information for our businesses or local governments. The million-dollar question is when? When can we start getting back to some type of normal? Unfortunately, since the restrictions are directed by the Governor, we at the local level do not have that answer.

I think most of us agree that the state is very diversified, and we are much different in South Jersey than North Jersey. All the Mayors in the County are part of a County recovery task force and soon will be sending a plan to the Governor's office asking approval to start opening the county with some restrictions for the near future. Our businesses and their employees are in a bad situation and we cannot just sit back and not be heard. With this plan our number one priority is to protect the health and safety of our residents.

The local Governing body is faced with many difficult decisions, some of these decisions are unpopular like closing the beaches, playgrounds, parks and some others. I can tell you that the health and safety of our residents drives these decisions. We are constantly reevaluating these decisions and will make changes as needed. We fully understand that residents still need to get out and get some fresh air and exercise.

Effective this Friday May 1<sup>st</sup> the beaches which includes the bay beaches will be open for passive recreation use only, things like jogging, walking and fishing. I must stress that social distancing is a mandate and will be enforced on the beaches. We anticipate opening the beaches for full access with a tentative date of June 1<sup>st</sup>. Again, I want to thank everyone for your sacrifices as we work through this pandemic. God bless everyone and please stay safe, thank you.