

May 1, 2020

I am contacting you as leaders of the four beach associations in our Village. We are still in the midst of the national pandemic. Today's report shows 33,664 confirmed cases in the County. There have been 1177 deaths in the county. There are 4060 cases in the Town Of Huntington and 19 in our Village.

As you know, we are under Executive Orders from the Governor that prohibit and/or restrict certain activities during this phase of the pandemic in our state to prevent further cases. The Governor and the County Executive have pointed out that the enforcement of those orders is up to local authorities. The Village has no authority to interpret these orders, but must ensure that they are being followed.

We have had bad weather for most of the time that these orders have been in effect. However, as spring is upon us, that will soon change. When it does, residents will begin to use the beaches in our Village. That presents the potential problem of group gatherings. It also means that social distancing needs to be monitored.

We met with our Village Attorneys this week and were given clear direction about what our process of enforcement will be. Our police department will have extra officers on duty. They will be monitoring activity at the beaches throughout the day and night. When they see a problem they will approach those who are violating the orders and request that they separate to maintain proper social distancing. Hopefully they will comply. If not, the conversation will become more directive telling people violating the order to immediately disperse. If there is still no compliance, the officers will be compelled to issue a ticket to each of the violators. The Executive Order regarding social distancing (202.14) from the Governor allows fines of up to \$1000.00 per person per incident.

We need your help and support to ensure that your members act in a manner that is not only in the best interest of your respective association, but for all Village residents. We need you to communicate this in your own way to your members. You know who they are and where the potential problems might be. We also need you and your Board members to do your own policing by pointing out behavior that is unacceptable. We also need you not to plan or promote any events that would encourage people to gather in violation of the order. We have been advised by counsel that our officers can issue tickets of up to \$1000 to the association itself for violations that occur on its property.

We are not looking to write tickets or collect fines. We just passed a budget with no tax increase and a healthy surplus. We don't need that kind of revenue. What we need is cooperation and compliance.

One other issue of concern is the use of the beaches by people who are not your members and/or not Village residents. Other beaches and recreational facilities outside the Village are closed. That means people may take a ride to the Village and ignore all of the PRIVATE MEMBER

ONLY signs. Please police the use of your facilities. If you need help the police will assist with a polite request to leave or by issuing a trespassing ticket.

If you have any questions or comments please reply all, or contact the Chief or me.

Thank you and stay safe.

Herb Morrow  
Mayor  
Village of Huntington Bay  
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