



The Family Resort

Borough of Seaside Park

BOROUGH HALL

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March 18, 2021

Hon. Governor Phillip Murphy
c/o Alexander P. Krastusky IV
Aide to the Governor, Intergovernmental affairs
225 West State St.
Trenton, NJ 08625
VIA EMAIL ONLY: Alex.Krasutsky@nj.gov

**RE.: Request for Assistance to Address Emergent Health and Safety
Issues Caused in Part, by Regular Weekend Closures and Parking
Restrictions at Nearby Island Beach State Park**

Dear Governor Murphy:

As Mayor of the Borough of Seaside Park in Ocean Co., I am writing to you, in care of Mr. Krastusky, with an urgent request that your office provide us assistance as to emergent circumstances which occurred as a result of actions and procedures at Island Beach State Park, during the last summer season. We are fearful that unless the State of New Jersey acts to address the situation, similar health and safety concerns will be present again this summer season.

I am writing specifically to follow-up on my comment on this topic, made during the March 16, 2021 monthly conference call which Mr. Krastusky had kindly arranged with Ocean County, Atlantic County and Cape May, County Mayors. Mayor Carmen Amato, of one of the adjoining municipalities, Berkeley Township, expressed similar sentiments and concerns, to Alex, on behalf of the residents and visitors to the South Seaside Park section of Berkeley Township.

I ask your immediate attention with regard to addressing the anticipated increase in Ocean area beachfront overcrowding, caused in part, by the consistent weekend closures of nearby Island Beach State Park. Directly related to this avoidable, substantial and dangerous increase in vehicles and crowds, was the decision to significantly reduce parking space availability for patrons and visitors to Island Beach State Park.

Further, Rebecca Schwartz had been kind enough to intervene with my request

to address this issue made in December 2020. At that time, I had been assured that when the appropriate staff and officials in charge of Island Beach State Park's operation considered their summer start up actions, these issues would be addressed, and I would be given some kind of a report as to the status of the parking concerns and general steps taken by the State to address the overcrowding, especially on weekends. To date, we have had no response on this urgent matter

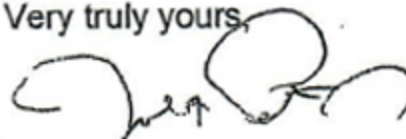
Additionally, through "back channels", we learned on March 16th itself, that Island Beach State Park will once again consider imposing parking restrictions for patrons, due to expressed concern as to the ongoing pandemic. It is unfortunate to have received this information indirectly. Most importantly, however, as the planning stages for the State's summer season at Island Beach State Park, as well as for all the municipalities involved in beach operations, are still in progress, I would ask your office and the applicable individuals and Park officials, at the DEP, and Island Beach State Park, to reconsider the imposition of any such parking restrictions, if in fact such a decision has already been made. I would also ask your kind consideration in addressing all the various concerns associated with Island Beach State Park's operation, and the ever threatening and dangerous crowding situation which I had described originally to your office, back on July 23, 2020. Various predictions and news accounts, and all other indications suggest that this Summer's level of crowds and visitors to the New Jersey shore may even exceed last year's numbers

Accordingly, it is absolutely critical that the State of New Jersey address this worsening and very dangerous situation, exacerbated significantly by ongoing operations, including parking policies, at Island Beach State Park.

I would welcome input into this decision-making process, along with Mayor Amato of Berkeley Township, to mitigate these unsafe circumstances.

Thank you, Alex, Rebecca, and your staff.

Very truly yours,



Mayor John A. Peterson, Jr.

CC: Rebecca Schwartz (via email only)
Mayor Carmen Amato, Berkeley Township (via email only)
John Camara, Administrator, Berkeley Township (via email only)
Police Chief Boag (via email only)
Sandy Martin, Borough Clerk (via email only for distribution to members of Seaside Park Borough Council for informational purposes only)