



NEW JERSEY SENATE

ANTHONY M. BUCCO

SENATOR, 25TH DISTRICT

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COMMITTEES:

COMMERCE

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LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY

October 1, 2020

Ms. Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti
Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Transportation
David J. Goldberg Transportation Complex
1035 Parkway Avenue
Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Commissioner Gutierrez-Scaccetti:

Thank you for time yesterday on such short notice to discuss Morristown's current situation regarding on-street outdoor dining. It is my understanding; the town previously had approval and permits through October 15, 2020 for sections of South Street (New Jersey State Route 124) and Speedwell Avenue (US Route 202).

I am writing today to respectfully request your approval of the Town of Morristown's request to extend those permits to November 1, 2020. In light of the successful trial run by these responsible establishments as well as the patrons who have cooperated in all aspects under the circumstances, I believe granting the extension is justified.

I look forward to and am hopeful for a positive outcome keeping these small businesses afloat and their employees working as the winter season quickly approaches. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Anthony M. Bucco
Senator, 25th Legislative District

cc: The Honorable Phil Murphy
Mayor Tim Dougherty
Ms. Jillian Barrick, Administrator
Ms. Jennifer Werring, Morristown Partnership

THE TOWN OF



MORRISTOWN

200 South Street, P.O. Box 914
Morristown, NJ 07963-0914

Timothy P. Dougherty, Mayor
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October 1, 2020

Commissioner Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti
New Jersey Department of Transportation
P.O. Box 600
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0600

Commissioner Gutierrez-Scaccetti,

I'm disappointed that NJDOT has only approved permits for on-street outside dining through October 15, 2020. The Town of Morristown asks that you reconsider our request for an extension of permits allowing on-street outside dining (i.e. parklets) to continue through Sunday, November 1, 2020. Extended outdoor dining has proven a lifeline to the many restaurants in Town that have taken advantage of it, and it's continuance through mid-fall will further bolster their ability to stay in business and recoup some of the revenue lost during the shutdown earlier this year. Though limited indoor dining is now permitted, the 25% capacity limit makes indoor dining infeasible for many of our smaller businesses and supplementation with continued outdoor dining is critical to their financial stability. Further, many diners are simply not ready to venture indoors, particularly as the weather remains pleasant enough to be seated in open air and restaurateurs have already invested in additional equipment like heaters to provide additional comfort for diners outdoors.

Continuation through Sunday, November 1st gives our restaurants 3 more full weekends of additional business including Halloween, which is a popular holiday for restaurants in Morristown.

Allowing the continued use of expanded dining areas in curbside parking spaces is critical to the continued resurgence of our local restaurants. I hope that you consider our request for the wellbeing of our businesses and stability of our downtown.

Regards,



Timothy P. Dougherty,

Mayor

Cc: Governor Phil Murphy
Senator Anthony Bucco, Legislative District 25
Jillian Barrick, Business Administrator, Town of Morristown
Jennifer Wehring, Morristown Partnership