



Legal issues may hinder opening of businesses

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House of the week

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166th YEAR NO. 24 CAPE MAY, N.J. Serving America's National Historic Landmark City WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 2020 \$1.00

City may allow public alcohol consumption

Idea aimed at helping bars, restaurants struggling amid pandemic

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — City Council tabled a resolution that would have temporarily suspended the city's ordinance that forbids the consumption of alcohol in public spaces owned by the city of Cape May.

During a meeting June 2, Mayor Chuck Lear advocated the city assist restaurants and bars by allowing them to sell alcoholic beverages that could be consumed on the beach, Promenade or a bench on the mall.

Currently, restaurants and bars can sell alcoholic beverages for take-out consumption, but where they can consume the drinks is still in question. He said the beverages were not all being consumed at the patrons' hotel room or rental home.

Police Chief Tony Marino said in discussions with City Manager Jerry Inderwies, his No. 1 concern was alcoholic beverages served in glass containers and bottles. He noted the damage a glass container can inflict in a fight.

Marino said he had a concern about trash being dumped by in-

toxicated persons.

"We've had that just normally, now you're just adding to the volume of that potentially with take-away containers for alcohol," he said.

Marino said he has received phone calls from residents concerned with changing the atmosphere of Cape May by allowing open consumption. On the other hand, if it is handled correctly, an environment could be created that would entice more visitors to visit Cape May, he said.

Open consumption would allow

persons to transport alcohol rather than drinking in an establishment, which could lead to a higher level of intoxication, Marino said. The police department will have a shortage of Class II officers this summer, he said.

"The academy currently is working on getting the four Class IIs that we have in the winter academy graduated," Marino said. "It's a pilot program that Cape May County is doing. The state is watching us to see if we have any shortcomings with that but there will not be another Class II academy this year."

Instead of Cape May police having the normal 10 to 15 Class II officers, the department will have only seven officers, Marino said.

"Just the idea of more intoxication with less summer help is definitely a concern of mine from the police department perspective," he said.

Marino said open consumption of alcohol could create a "party atmosphere in Cape May we haven't had in the past which would certainly be a change of pace for Cape May of

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Prayers for healing, unity, peace

Faith leaders speak during gathering at Rotary Park

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Pastors from nine Cape May-area churches spoke at a well-attended prayer vigil June 5 in Rotary Park for healing in the nation and healing for those who have been hurt.

Nine prayers were offered representing the almost 9 minutes that George Floyd was being suffocated by the knee of a Minneapolis police officer May 25, First Assembly of God pastor Leo Dodd said.

Prayers were offered for social justice, safety in communities, civil leadership and the police, for mercy, for listening to each other, for freedom from fear, for humility, a prayer for families and for healing the nation.

"We've come together to listen and to express our grief and to pray for healing," Dodd said. "As faith leaders we make ourselves available not just to teach but to learn ourselves about the pain our brothers and sisters of color have been feeling for generations."

He said the idea for the event took shape on the previous Sunday when he saw demonstrations were scheduled to take place in the Rio Grande section of Middle Township.

"Everyone was really upset and all kinds of scare tactics



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Attendees of a prayer vigil June 5 at Rotary Park in Cape May bow their heads in prayer for healing, unity and social justice.

were going around the internet and I thought it would be really important for clergy to be at these protests," he said.

Dodd said members of the clergy were attending the protests. He said he believed clergy needed to get together in the community to make a statement about all that has happened.

"We are all in agreement that what happened to George

Floyd was an unjust murder," Dodd said. "We are also in agreement with George Floyd's family who said that riots and looting would not be the answer."

Cape May Police Chief Tony Marino joined the pastors on the stage. He said many in law enforcement feel they have been called to their jobs by a higher power.

Marino said in dealing with

the current situation, we should look at Matthew 5:15, stating no one lights a lamp and puts it under a basket. Instead a lamp is placed on a stand where it gives light to everyone in the house.

"We must be that lamp right now in this situation," he said.

He offered a moment of silence for prayer and reflection.

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COVID-19

Protests too important to prohibit, Murphy says

By DAVID NAHAN
Cape May Star and Wave

Gov. Phil Murphy, accused Monday of being a hypocrite for violating his own orders about social distancing because he attended a pair of protests against racism over the weekend, said this is a unique moment in history that can't be ignored.

Murphy, answering questions after his daily press briefing June 8, said he couldn't imagine allowing the growing movement to correct the nation's history of racism to be sidelined, even during the COVID-19 pandemic. He also said he couldn't imagine how protesters would react to police trying to enforce those guidelines and shut down more than 130 demonstrations and protests over the weekend. The protests, in New Jersey, across the nation and around the world, were sparked by the death of George Floyd, a black man who died after a Minneapolis police officer knelt on his neck for more than eight minutes during an arrest.

A few people asking questions put Murphy on the spot, including one who said the governor was "picking and choosing" how his executive order against gatherings during the pandemic was being applied by allowing large protests but prohibiting smaller gatherings affecting citizens' livelihoods. "Why doesn't your executive order apply to protests? You're violating your own executive order," the questioner asked. "Isn't that hypocritical?"

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LCMRHS to hold drive-through commencement

Ceremony to start at high school, proceed to Cape May County Airport

By CRAIG D. SCHENCK
Cape May Star and Wave

ERMA — Lower Cape May Regional High School students will get the chance to "take off" on their post-high school journey during a graduation ceremony at the Cape May County Airport. The district also has plans to celebrate its eighth-graders.

Superintendent Joseph Castellucci said the high school would be holding a drive-through ceremony at 4:30 p.m. Monday, June 15, outside the Naval Air Station Wildwood

Aviation Museum's hangar.

"It will be a 'drive-in'-style ceremony which will begin at the high school with vehicles lining up to parade to the airport with police and fire escort. The ceremony will also be streamed live on the internet," Castellucci wrote in an email.

High school Principal Lawrence Ziembra shared details of the event in a letter to parents and guardians.

"Today we feel confident enough to announce plans for graduation on June 15th celebrating the Class of 2020. Lower Cape May Regional High School wants to deliver the

celebration of academic success you have come to expect — but safety is our new reality," the letter stated.

Students were assigned times to pick up their caps, gowns and other regalia June 8, when they would pose for a picture to be used in a media presentation during graduation.

Celebrants are permitted one car per graduate, who must ride with families and not other graduates. Graduates and their families are directed to park at the high school from 2 to 2:55 p.m.

"Once organized, all cars will be escorted to the Cape May County

Airport via local police vehicles and fire trucks. After all cars are parked at the airport, students and families will observe graduation and listen to the ceremony on an FM signal to be announced the day of graduation," the letter stated.

The ceremony is expected to last no longer than an hour. After the event, students will return to the high school to pick up diplomas at the following locations via last name: A-C — Field House; D-H — new gym; I-M — Main Office; N-Z — PAC entrance.

Graduates and their family mem-

bers are not permitted to leave their vehicles except to use a porta-potty. Participants are advised to use the restroom before arriving at the high school. Buildings will not be accessible for restroom use.

People are encouraged to decorate their car but must be in compliance with state laws and regulations.

"Being late for assigned times will jeopardize your participation in this event. Seniors, as you continue on your journey of life, I

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