

TOWNSHIP OF MIDDLETOWN

Township Hall, One Kings Highway
Middletown, NJ 07748-2594

ANTHONY S. PERRY
Mayor

ANTHONY P. FIORE
Deputy Mayor

RICK W. HIBELL
Committee Member

KEVIN M SETTEMBRINO, AIA
Committee Member

PATRICIA A. SNELL
Committee Member



Organized December 14, 1667
"Pride in Middletown"

ANTHONY P. MERCANTANTE, P.P., AICP
Township Administrator

HEIDI R. BRUNT, CMR, RMC/ MMC
Township Clerk and Registrar

Tel: (732) 615-2000
Fax: (732) 957-9090

www.middletownnj.org

March 14, 2019

The Honorable Chuck Chiarello
Buena Vista Township
President, NJCM
410 Riverview Plaza
Trenton, NJ 08611

Dear Mayor Chiarello,

On behalf of the residents of Middletown Township and as the Mayor of Monmouth County's largest municipality, I am writing with regard to recent actions by our State Legislature to legalize recreational marijuana. I find it incredibly difficult to sit by and not express my concerns on the proposed marijuana policy. The purpose of my letter does not stem from my support for or against the legalization of recreational marijuana, but from a question of procedure.

As you well know, municipalities bear the largest burden from constant Trenton mandates and legalizing marijuana is just the latest. I cannot in good conscience sit by as we see legislation being passed in Trenton that treats marijuana as a specialty item. Similar to township liquor licenses, why can't marijuana be licensed in the same way as alcohol? This would allow townships to sell licenses to generate revenue and to set policies including criminal background checks by our police to safeguard our residents. These issues are not being addressed by the currently proposed legislation, which should concern mayors of both parties.

Like you, I have a responsibility to my residents to voice my concerns and reservation on statewide policies, especially one of this magnitude.

All the best,


Tony Perry
Mayor

CC: Senator Declan J. O'Scanlon Jr.
Assemblywoman Amy Handlin
Assemblywoman Serena DiMaso
Freeholder Director Thomas A. Arnone
Sheriff Shaun Golden