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Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2020 12:52 AM
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Cc: Pedri, David <David.Pedri@luzernecounty.org>
Subject: [EXTERNAL]: Public Comment for meeting

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Mr Chair and Council Members:

The following is my public comment on items for tomorrow's meeting please respond accordingly at your earliest convenience during the meeting or afterwards.

Thank you for your attention.

Mark Rabo

Agenda Items

For item #5: It is my hope that because of this health crisis going on it doesn't mean that the County takes prisoners from NY prisons to hold them in our prison on their behalf. I say this as a reminder of whenever the County held prisoners for other states like NY of other parts of our state, our County wasn't getting reimbursement for their stay when the last County warden was on the job. I'm sure that Mr Rockovich will not be hasty or eager to be accommodating if there's no assurance of getting the cost for their prisoners hospital emergency if they are infected with COVID-19 or if not infected being reimbursed for their stay or putting the prison population or the public safety at risk. My request is very simple that unless under expressed written directive by our Governor to take in those prisoners then the County Manager must reject those prisoners from being placed in the LCCF. As you can read for yourself the PA Secretary of Corrections Mr Wetzel is having all prisoners under lockdown due to enforcing social distancing guidelines. I am not in favor of WellPath LLC in getting another chance to be the health care provider for the LCCF as we've seen their track record for our county in the past as well as other prison facilities. I've attached the article as it pertains to health care measures implemented by the Department of Corrections during the state of emergency declaration.

Pennsylvania prison inmates quarantined in cells over coronavirus - [pennlive.com](https://www.pennlive.com/news/2020/03/pennsylvania-prison-inmates-quarantined-in-cells-over-coronavirus.html)
<https://www.pennlive.com/news/2020/03/pennsylvania-prison-inmates-quarantined-in-cells-over-coronavirus.html>

If on agenda item, the emergency ordinance to eliminate the County tax penalty. I'm strongly supportive of the ordinance as these are extraordinarily difficult circumstances that are beyond

the ability of the county taxpayers who are going through economic paralysis in addition to their own dire health risk. If there was ever a time to consider the absolute need to eliminate the penalties for late payment when it comes to the County taxes, it's at this time. I ask everyone on Council to consider the working people who are not allowed to work as they're in a "nonessential" business as defined by Governor Wolf. How in the world are they going to have the ability to pay the county taxes in time without getting a steady paycheck? Don't even think about the stimulus check because the taxpayers who are out of work need to replenish their groceries and make vehicle payments and other bills that are associated with where they live. So please have some compassion for our taxpayers who are going through the most traumatic experience affecting their lives since 9/11/01.

Non-Agenda items:

First off I'd like to applaud the Council, Ms Lawrence, and Scott Cannon for putting forth this meeting to be available to the public in this format under these tumultuous time in our state's and national history. I know holding a County public meeting under these conditions was an arduous task, however you met the requirements set by the state and I just wanted you to be acknowledged for your positive effort. I'd also like to extend my profound gratitude and appreciation for our grocery stores especially the stock shelves and employees who keep the store clean, the truckers (excluding myself as that would be self serving) who work tirelessly to keep the store shelves stocked, the utility workers who keep our lights on, water running, and sanitation running; health care providers especially the doctors, nurses, and the unsung heroes on the front line of the war who clean and sanitize the hospital floors the housekeeping staff and the custodians who clean those buildings who are doing their job during this crisis. I know how vital and how under appreciated the hospital housekeeping staff and sanitary workers hard work goes unnoticed because my own mother was one of them for years cleaning the operating room and patients rooms breaking her back and having a compromised health herself. I just wanted to say thanks again for all of their hard work during these difficult times and all of the days they're on the job.

Next, since this health crisis gripped our state, to say I'm profoundly disgusted and outraged by the sheer ignorance and dereliction of duty by the PA Governor to allow nonessential travel of NY residents of a certain nationality who are "shacking up" with relatives in defiance of social distancing guidelines in addition to not wearing proper gloves and masks while they are out in public is sheer careless behavior that jeopardizes the health of the county residents specifically in Hazleton Area and some portions of Wilkes-Barre City. Because of his ignorance and utter negligence in his inaction for a nonessential travel ban from the onset of the crisis and in the past week of NY residents who are shacking up in PA, Hazleton and Wilkes-Barre residents are more likely than not to be infected by the community spread of the virus because of the "nationality" that has threatened our area especially our elderly population and our residents with other medical conditions bringing the virus from the hot zone of NY here into our county in addition to other counties throughout the Commonwealth.

I would like the next sentences entered into the public record verbatim by Ms Lawrence, I strongly condemn the reckless ignorance by Governor Tom Wolf in not issuing a nonessential travel ban for PA residents commuting to NY as well as NY residents who are coming into PA

when the first reports of infected individuals of COVID-19 were confirmed This places more of a burden on our local and state health care providers which puts them into a precarious position as to treating PA residents who are sick and care for NY residents who decided to travel here instead of following the directive of the President and their own Governor to stay home.

My questions about the COVID-19 readiness are:

Can Manager Pedri contact DCED in regards to the ventilators they have in stock so that the County may acquire them for use by our local health care providers who will need them for critically ill individuals who are infected?

Are steps being taken by the First Responders Crisis Committee in finding secondary locations to treat COVID-19 patients or locations to treat non COVID patients to free up bed space when the need for more bed space arises? If locations are available can the Manager or the Crisis Committee make those locations known to the public? The reason why I ask is so the public is not frantically searching for the secondary location when the crisis reaches a peak or nearly the peak(apex) of the curve. I'd suggest a triage in a vacant lot for non COVID patients who have non critical health ailments if a dire need arises.

Are the health care providers good with the necessary PPE (personal protective equipment) to handle the mass amount of people of infected individuals who are not yet showing symptoms of COVID-19 illness?

Lastly will the Manager give the County residents his word to ease the public concern about if the health crisis gets so chaotic that their well being nor the residents who reside here are not jeopardized by having our health care providers treating NY residents who are here based on their careless reaction making their way here. I believe the county residents are looking for a calming voice to assure them that this crisis will pass if we all work together and be smart in our actions to follow the guidelines put forth for our own safety.