

Gloucester County is now reporting 562 positive cases and 2,091 negative cases of COVID-19. Pitman is holding for now at 14 confirmed cases ranging in age from 28 to 66 years old.

\* Renewals on pet licenses are still on hold as long as we are under the Governor's State of Emergency Declaration. The current extension of the declaration is set to expire May 8, 2020.

\*The Governor's Executive Order 126 prohibits cable and telecommunications providers from terminating internet and voice services due to non-payment until 30 days after the current public health emergency has ended. A copy of EO #126 can be found by clicking [here](#).

\*As many taxpayers are already aware, the Borough of Pitman is required by statute to collect taxes and to pass along payments to the county and the school district representing their portions of your total local property tax. The majority of your current tax bill is passed along to these other entities. Many residents have asked about the Borough offering grace periods for payments due on May 1, 2020. There is currently a 10-Day grace period that has already been in place. We as a Borough would need to be provided relief from making the payments to other authorities before we could even consider passing along any additional grace period to taxpayers...even then it would be difficult since our expenses have not stopped. We are still obligated to make payroll, benefits payments, pay utility bills and so on in spite of the current situation. This is an issue that has been discussed frequently at the highest levels in the State, but no formal decision has been made to change the current system. Our leaders in Trenton are also very cognizant of not creating a cash flow problem for local public entities with the additional expenses we now have to combat COVID-19 and to keep everyone serving our community safe. Any change in this process from the State will be posted as soon as it is available.

Tonight, Mayor & Council held its first "Virtual Council Meeting" via video conference. Thank you to the residents that connected with us to listen in on this historic event. Although we all wish we were not in the position where this level of social distancing was necessary, it was important that we introduce our municipal budget per the timeline and guidance from our CFO, our auditor, and the State of New Jersey...a budget with no increase in municipal taxes for 2020. Although there were a few "quirks" we had to work out, the meeting went as well as could have been expected, and everyone remained safely in their homes. Thank you to each member of Council for volunteering their time to serve our residents.

Stay well,

*Michael L. Razzo, Jr.*  
**Mayor, Borough of Pitman**  
110 S Broadway  
Pitman, NJ 08071