

Dear Quogue Residents,

Governor Cuomo recently dropped a couple of bombs on us. Last Friday, he issued Executive Order 203, which, if you are interested after reading on a little, you can find at <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/no-203-new-york-state-police-reform-and-reinvention-collaborative>. That order requires each local government that has a police force to “perform a comprehensive review of current police force deployments, strategies, policies, procedures, and practices, and develop a plan to improve such deployments, strategies, policies, procedures, and practices, for the purposes of addressing the particular needs of the communities served by such police agency and promote community engagement to foster trust, fairness, and legitimacy, and to address any racial bias and disproportionate policing of communities of color.” (There is more similar language, but I will spare you that.) The order requires involvement of and consultation with “stakeholders” to develop a plan, solicitation of public comment and adoption by April 1, 2021. Meanwhile, I would point out that our police department has already been accredited three times by the Governor’s own Statewide agency. I also did not see in the Governor’s release any mention of the New York State Police, which he actually runs.

On Sunday, the Governor remarked at a press conference that the State had received 25,000 complaints of violations in New York City and the Hamptons of reopening rules. The problem with that statement became apparent the next afternoon in a prearranged call with east end elected officials in which some police participated—no one had received notice of any violations or knew any. We all felt that our area had been unjustly maligned.

A few other recent State edicts:

- Playgrounds may reopen
- You can hold a yard sale (but no signs in Quogue, please) if you are willing to assure that it does not get crowded, face coverings are worn whenever people are likely to get within six feet of others, which is nearly all the time at a yard sale, hand sanitizer is available and cleaning protocols are in place. It might be easier to wait until next year.
- No sleep away camps in New York this year.
- When we reach Phase 3, which should happen in Long Island on June 24th, gatherings may increase to 25 (up from 10).
- Approximately 13.4% of the Statewide population has Covid-19 antibodies (that’s not that much).

In Phase 3, restaurants can open indoor seating, subject to a 50% of capacity limit. Stay away from the bar area. If you are drinking, you must be seated. Your favorite non-hair related personal care business may also open. Details are at <https://forward.ny.gov/phase-three-industries>.

There are contested Democratic primary elections next Tuesday to decide (1) who will face off next Fall against Lee Zeldin in the election to be our representative in the U.S. House and (2) who will run seeking the seat vacated by Len LaValle in the New York State Senate. It is too late to apply for an absentee ballot if you have not already done so, but there are early-voting sites in Southampton and Aquebogue through June 21. Check out <https://suffolkcountyny.gov/Departments/BOE/Early-Voting-Sites-6-23-2020> for details. You can also vote in the usual way at the Quogue Fire Department on June 23rd.

Commencing on Saturday, you will need a valid 2020 sticker to park at the Quogue Village Beach.

Peter Sartorius
Mayor