



## NEW JERSEY STATE LEGISLATURE

Acting Attorney General Matthew J. Platkin  
Office of the Attorney General  
RJ Hughes Justice Complex  
25 Market Street, Box 080  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0080

June 8, 2022

Dear Acting Attorney General Platkin,

As you are well aware, on May 21 of this year, Long Branch was chosen as the setting for yet another pop-up party which brought thousands of people to its beaches without warning for an unapproved party that was advertised via social media. The party led to thousands of dollars in damage to municipal as well as private property, overwhelmed local law enforcement, and forced businesses to shutter their doors and lose out on untold amounts of potential income that they desperately needed after weathering the pandemic.

Point Pleasant Beach is bracing for the very same on June 18, where social media has advertised boxing matches, bring your own liquor, and "bring your own weed". There have also been threats of violence circulating social media with images of firearms brandished and the promise of "be[ing] strap[ped] June 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> at the beach" and "[if] you play you gone lay". Belmar has also dealt with its own pop-up parties throughout the years in the form of pop-up car rallies where cars will gather in the parking lots of local businesses before driving at reckless speeds through residential neighborhoods late at night when visibility is compromised.

We have heard from our mayors and our constituents that families are afraid to go to the beaches and boardwalks; to visit their downtowns; to send their teenage children to work at their summer jobs. They are afraid because they have seen first-hand the violence and destruction that comes with these pop-up parties as this is not the first summer that our Shore towns have had to face this threat to public safety.

Long Branch faced a similar situation in the Summer of 2021, and Point Pleasant Beach saw it happen to their town in 2020. Despite repeated incidents wherein municipalities have faced property damage, ordinance violations, violence, and been forced to pay out exorbitant amounts in overtime for law enforcement officers, your office has taken no meaningful action to put a stop to this established threat to public safety and the welfare of our communities.

With most of the participants in these parties arriving by train and ten NJ TRANSIT stops at ten different shore towns in our districts, our communities are uniquely vulnerable to the threat posed by these parties. Yet, when our mayors called upon your office to help they were warned to watch their rhetoric and told that State resources would be available as incidents occurred.

With reports of these partygoers arriving 500 to 1,000 at a time, it is obvious that once the participants have begun to arrive it is already too late. We are imploring you to take proactive rather than reactive measures to address this issue and enforce the laws of the state. There needs to be collaboration between state, county, and local law enforcement agencies. Further, there must be communication between NJ TRANSIT and law enforcement agencies. However, these solutions only address the symptoms and not the root of the problem. If there is to be any hope of preventing these pop-up parties from happening in the future, there must be directives and repercussions to address the party planners and promoters as well as the participants.

We hope to hear from your office with the proactive measures the Attorney General's Office plans to undertake to address this critical problem. Please feel free to contact any of our offices should you wish to discuss this further.

Sincerely,



Senator Robert W. Singer



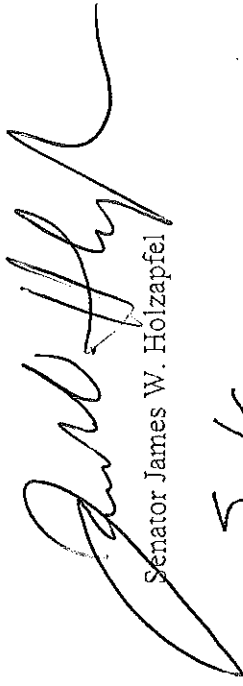
Assemblyman Edward H. Thomson



Assemblyman Gregory P. McGuckin



Assemblywoman Kim Eulner



Senator James W. Holzapfel



Assemblyman Sean T. Kean



Assemblyman John Catalano



Assemblywoman Marilyn Piperno

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CC: Governor Phil Murphy  
Sheriff Shaun Golden  
Sheriff Michael Mastronardy  
Prosecutor Bradley D. Billhimer  
Prosecutor Lori Linskey