



RAS J. BARAKA

MAYOR
NEWARK, NEW JERSEY

July 20, 2020

Dear Business Owner:

It has come to my knowledge that numerous restaurant establishments that are permitted to sell alcohol have been operating and serving as bars, with deliberate and brazen violations of both state and local orders related to occupancy, social distancing, and protection methods such as the wearing of masks and gloves, where appropriate, and providing sanitizer. Some venues are operating as nightclubs infecting younger individuals who have visited these businesses. Businesses that choose to ignore state and local orders are not only worsening the impacts of COVID-19 in the City of Newark but also potentially lengthening the amount of time that businesses are required to be closed or restricted.

Starting today, the City of Newark will increase site inspections of establishments permitted to sell alcohol, and those selling alcohol without proper authorization. Business owners and operators who violate the orders related to occupancy limitations, or who are selling alcohol to patrons who are not seated at socially-distanced tables eating food, or who are operating as nightclubs instead of restaurants will be closed. In addition, no restaurant is to have a DJ working on their premises. This gives residents and patrons the idea that you are operating as the host of a party. If a business is found to be committing any of the above infractions, they will be closed for a period of up to one week. If the business repeats the above offenses, they will be closed indefinitely, and have their liquor license suspended. Documentation of violations will be evaluated for further enforcement action, including potential revocation of alcohol licenses, if appropriate.

We must put the aforementioned measures in place as we are seeing many cities experiencing a surge in COVID-19 cases over the past several weeks, caused largely by bars and restaurants that disregarded the safety conditions imposed by the State and local orders. We all need to continue to work together to end the spread of COVID-19 in Newark so that we can reopen all of our businesses, and ensure that we are stronger as a community moving Newark forward. We know that this is something that most of our business owners and residents understand, to which they are committed, and we ask for full compliance during this critical time. We look forward to your cooperation and compliance. Thank you for your time and consideration on this critical matter.

Yours Truly,

Ras J. Baraka
Mayor of Newark