



Essex County Board of Supervisors

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PRESS RELEASE - ESSEX COUNTY, NEW YORK Issued April 23, 2020

A MESSAGE FROM ESSEX COUNTY

Elizabethtown, NY - In an effort to encourage anticipated tourism in Essex County for the upcoming Summer, Essex County Chairman, Shaun Gilliland has temporarily suspended provisions of the Essex County Room Occupancy Tax Law which recently increased the hotel/motel tax from three percent (3%) to five percent (5%) effective June 1, 2020.

Under the current law, the old 3% tax only applied to bookings and actual occupancy prior to June 1, 2020, with occupancy after June 1, 2020, to be at the new rate of 5%. The State of Emergency allows the 3% to apply to bookings and contracts entered into prior to June 1st even though occupancy may occur after June 1st.

Practically, it is hoped that this will encourage bookings for the Summer ahead of the June 1, 2020 date and equally importantly, addresses concerns from the hotel/motel community relative to implementation and logistics in instances where contracts and bookings were made prior to June 1st assuming a 3% tax, with occupancy after June 1st.

Gilliland stated that the hotel/motel and tourist industries have been devastated by Covid-19 and this measure is meant to help the industry and tourism in general.

He stated, "this measure was instituted at the request of the hotel/motel and tourism residency communities, keeping in mind that many of the larger bookings for the Summer season are made prior to June 1st and that to not institute this measure would cause confusion and hurt the industry."

The Order states as follows:

"Because of the devastating effect that the current coronavirus pandemic is having on tourism in Essex County, and specifically in the Lake Placid area, it is hereby ordered that Section 4 - Transitional Provisions of Local Law No. 2 of 2020, entitled, "Essex County Room Occupancy Tax Law" shall be temporarily suspended and for any rentals booked, contracted, or

paid for prior to June 1, 2020, even though occupancy is to occur after June 1, 2020, the tax shall be three percent (3%) of the per diem rental value of such room. For any rentals booked, contracted, or paid for after June 1st, 2020, the tax imposed shall be five percent (5%) of the per diem rental value of such room.”

Any questions regarding this Order can be directed to Essex County Treasurer, Michael G. Diskin at 518/873-3317.

Thank you.

Shaun Gilliland, Chairman
Essex County Board of Supervisors