



Borough of Lincoln Park
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Office of the Mayor

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13 August 2021

Honorable Phil Murphy
225 West State Street
P.O. Box 001
Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Governor Murphy:

I am writing you today to let you know my thoughts on your Executive Order 251 following conversations and communication I have had with many parents of school age children in Lincoln Park.

While I acknowledge there potential risks to children from COVID-19, I feel that it is the right and responsibility of individual parents and caregivers to make healthcare decisions for their own children. This includes the right to determine whether or not to have their child wear a mask in public places including our public schools.

Further, I believe that issuing blanket orders for the entire state minimizes the efforts and actions that have been taken, and continue to be taken on a community level such as those we have taken in Lincoln Park to contain the spread of COVID-19 and its subsequent variants.

I firmly believe that the local school districts and boards in conjunction with local authorities, officials and health professionals should be able to determine policy that they feel is in the best interests of the community that they represent. I do not believe that State issued restrictions which affect the entire state can or should be applied evenly to each community, and infringe on our right to home rule.

I respectfully request that you reconsider the issuance of EO 251 and return the decision making back to individual school districts, the people of each community and ultimately the parents of the children involved.

Sincerely,

Mayor David Runfeldt