

Robert John Kentos
61 Meadow Road
Edison, NJ 08817
Email: rkentos@netsoftinfo.com
Tel: 732-322-5053

Office of the Mayor
Edison Township Council
100 Municipal Blvd.
Edison, NJ 08817

Date: December 12, 2024

RE: Public Speaking Time and Rebuttal.

Dear Mayor and Council Members,

The past 6 weeks have been a disgrace to our town after the council introduced and passed the Decorum and Speech Reduction Ordinances ("stifling ordinances"), which the majority of the public opposed ad nauseum. Our town that is rich in American History and a corner stone in the American Revolution is completely and utterly disgraced now by the Mayor and certain council members hasty actions to silence the public at council meetings.

The stifling ordinances, which have now completely backfired, are having the opposite effect right before your eyes. This is all due to poor judgement and the inability of certain council members and the Mayor to understand the residents, the greater public, and the significance of public participation and the spirit of the First Amendment and freedom of speech.

"How did you not know?"

Additionally, the town attorneys and Councilman Nish Patel and John Poyner lack basic strategic thinking skills. While the public listened to them for weeks with their legal analysis, research, and their used car salesman approach to try to make the public believe these ordinances were intended to help public engagement and not silence it, the town attorney and Councilman Nish Patel and John Poyner did not take into account how the public might protest in outrage, i.e., "The Response."

When you go to war on any front, especially war with the greater public over First Amendment related issues, the first thing you consider is "The Response." When an attorney files a complaint or any pleading they always consider "The Response". Same with proposing changes to township ordinances. What will the opposing party do, what will the public do in "Response" especially to something that is opposed by an overwhelming majority. No one

thought for one minute someone might bring in a US Flag or a Constitution to protest a "Props" exclusion? As I said several times on December 11, 2024, at the council meeting "How did you not know?" and "these amateur moves by the town attorney and council are concerning ."

"Free Gift"

Councilman Coyle recognized pretty quickly that the passing of these two stifling ordinances, is going to cause longer speaking times due to larger attendance because of the public outrage, hence his motion to repeal the Decorum Ordinance, *but what about the Speaking and Rebuttal Time Changes?*

I am requesting that at the next Council Meeting the Speaking and Rebuttal Time Changes be repealed. Since certain council members and the Mayor have the inability to consider "The Response." I will give it to you on a silver platter. If the Council does not repeal the Speaking and Rebuttal Time Changes it will have the opposite effect once again. The public will just come out in larger numbers to protest, speaking for the full four (4) minutes, and bring a partner in case rebuttal is needed for another full four (4) minutes.

Let me explain in the first person for those who cannot comprehend. Instead of listening to me speak for up to six (6) minutes, I will now bring four (4) people with me to speak for the maximum four (4) minutes totaling sixteen (16) minutes, and I can assure you other residents will do the same to protest a speaking reduction change the majority of the public opposed.

"Keeping with Mayor Sam's tradition"

VOTED TO MAKE EDISON TOWNSHIP A NATIONAL DISGRACE (Decorum and Speaking Time Ordinances)

Councilwoman	Councilman					
Harris	Patil	Brescher	Coyle	Poyner	Patel	Shmuel
ABSENT	NO	NO	Yes	YES	YES	YES

Respectfully,



Robert John Kentos
Lifelong Edison Resident
MCDO Committeeman D20, Edison