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June 25, 2020

Welcome to the PSATS Morning News.

Missed yesterday's PSATS Morning News? No problem! A [PSATS Morning News Library](#) is available online for your viewing pleasure!

We're excited about this new concept and want to hear what you think. Email comments and suggestions to morningnews@psats.org.

Township Video News



Virtual meetings may be convenient but they come with risks. We've got a few tips to help you improve security and avoid embarrassment. Also, [click here](#) to catch up on our Questions of the Week. (1:20)

Latest News

[New PA Cases of COVID-19 Hold Steady](#)

Despite increasing cases in more than half of the states, including outbreaks in Arizona, Florida, and Texas, Pennsylvania case rates remain steady. Pennsylvania has seen 12 days in a row with less than 600 cases. [Read full story.](#)

[New Coronavirus Scam](#)

Don't panic if you get a phone call, text message or email from someone who says they're a public health official warning that you may have been exposed to the coronavirus. It may be a scam. [Read full story.](#)

CENSUS 2020 UPDATE: Nearly All Households Should Have Received Their Questionnaire By Now

Census workers have completed 96% of the 2020 Census “update leave” operation, where census invitations and paper questionnaires are delivered to households in certain — often rural — areas across the country. In these areas, most households generally do not receive mail at their homes, so census workers drop off census materials in person. Between June 24 and July 3, the Census Bureau is sending reminder postcards to households with P.O. boxes alerting them that a census taker may drop off census invitations or visit later to interview them. When responding, these households are encouraged to use the Census ID provided in the packet or their street address – not their P.O. box number.

Continue to remind your residents to complete their census. Responding now means they can avoid a visit from a census taker later this summer or fall. Please note that because of COVID-19, the timeline for census operations has been adjusted. Most notably, the deadline for responding to the census has been extended to October 31 (it was originally July 31) and the delivery of apportionment counts to the president will now be by April 30, 2021 (pushed back from December 31, 2020). [Click here](#) to see the “2020 Census Operational Adjustments Due to COVID-19.”

Legislation & Policy



Lawmakers in Harrisburg and Washington are focused on police reform, but with dramatically different outcomes.

House and Senate in Harrisburg move unanimously on Police Reform

On June 24th, the State House unanimously passed two pieces of police reform legislation, HB 1841 and HB 1910.

HB 1841 would create a database to maintain records of law enforcement officers. This legislation would require an employer to disclose employment information to a law enforcement agency that is conducting a background investigation of an applicant and would also permit a court to compel the release of such employment information if an employer fails to comply.

HB 1910 would require the Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission (MPOETC) to train police officers to recognize and report suspected child abuse. HB 1910 would also require the MPOETC to develop training that includes annual instruction on the use of force, including deadly force; de-escalation and harm reduction techniques, training on interacting with individuals of diverse racial, ethnic and economic backgrounds as well as implicit bias training. This legislation would require the MPOETC to train police officers in trauma with respect to interacting with persons with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and would provide a way for law enforcement officers to deal with PTSD by requiring evaluations for PTSD by a licensed mental health professional.

The State Senate also unanimously approved two additional police reform bills, SB 459 and

SB 1205. SB 459 would require all police departments to maintain records of use of force incidents that detail the reason for the use of force and injuries, death or property damage. This legislation would also require police departments to provide these records to the Pennsylvania State Police for the purposes of compiling and presenting an annual report to the General Assembly.

SB 1205 would prohibit the use of chokeholds. This legislation would also require municipal police departments to have a use of force policy and provide training on said policy.

The Senate is expected to vote on the House bills next week, while the Senate bills are before the House for their consideration when they return.

While in Washington, Bipartisan Efforts Remain Elusive

Yesterday, Senate Democrats blocked police reform measures in the Nation's Capitol, while today Congressional Republicans are expected to oppose the House version of police reforms.

Learn

[Flagger Training - Virtual Class - 6/26/20](#)

This instructor-led, virtual class, flagger training will be conducted for individuals who have flagging responsibilities on ANY ROAD OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. Others who would benefit from this course include: utility companies working on low volume roads, law enforcement personnel, municipal managers and elected officials (to understand the importance, and for budgeting purposes). This virtual training is eligible for 2 PMGA Public Works points. [Click here](#) to register.

[Crisis Management: Communicating In The \(New\) Real World - Virtual - 7/2/20](#)

Attend this workshop to learn communications best practices and top tips for planning for a crisis. The presenters will provide key insights and essential steps for developing a crisis communications plan that includes effective messaging with partners in various scenarios. You will also have an opportunity to have a Q&A with communications professionals who have managed national and local crisis situations for small and large clients. Qualifies for 1 PMGA Public Works Point. [Click here](#) to register.



[Land Use & Zoning Law Update - Virtual - 7/2/20](#)

The workshop will provide a summary of current land use law in Pennsylvania and recent court decisions. The presenters will discuss the impacts on municipalities and planners and conduct a question-and-answer session. Qualifies for 1 PMGA Planning/Zoning Point. Eligible for 1 CLE Credit. [Click here](#) to register.



[Local Economies And Quality Of Life In The Age Of E-Tail - Virtual - 7/9/20](#)

The popularity of online shopping is leading to retail closures and warehouse development. This new economy will have winners and losers, and it will transform the landscape of how communities look and function. Attend this session to learn how your community can adjust its land use policies and build infrastructure to sustain existing businesses, promote economic development, and maintain quality of life. Qualifies for 1 PMGA Planning/Zoning Point. [Click here](#) to register.



[Advancing Public Communication Through Website Design - Virtual - 7/9/20](#)

This session will provide an in-depth look at website design best practices that can help you better connect and communicate with the public. Qualifies for 1 PMGA Administration Point. [Click here](#) to register.



For full list of webinars and classes please visit <https://learn.psats.org>.



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