



July 1, 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.

Latest News

[Commonwealth Launches COVID-19 Early Warning Monitoring Dashboard](#)

The state Department of Health launches an early warning monitoring dashboard that provides information statewide and by county of COVID-19 prevalence to track increases on a weekly basis. [Click here](#) to view the dashboard.

The dashboard shows data assessing the spread of the virus statewide and by county, including the difference in confirmed cases (last 7 days vs. previous 7 days); the incidence rate per 100,000 residents; the PCR positivity rate, the difference in the average daily hospitalizations due to COVID-19, difference in patients on ventilators, and percent of emergency room visits due to COVID-like-illness.

Philadelphia Delays Full Green Phase Opening

Mayor Jim Kenney of Philadelphia has announced that the city's outdoor sports, schools, libraries, and indoor malls will open on Friday. However, indoor dining, gyms, and indoor gatherings of more than 25 people will remain banned because the city's target metrics have not been met. In addition, the city is urging those returning from high-case states to self-quarantine.

[PSP, LCB Remind Licensed Establishments to Require Masks, Social Distancing](#)

The Pennsylvania State Police Bureau of Liquor Control Enforcement and the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board called on licensed liquor establishments and their patrons to follow social distancing and making requirements. [Read full story.](#)

[New Broadband Study Released](#)

Yesterday, the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee released a study on Pennsylvania ILEC Broadband Deployment Mandates. The report suggests that incumbent local exchange carriers (ILECs) fulfilled their commitments under Chapter 30. Chapter 30 required ILECs to accelerate broadband availability at the minimum download/upload speeds of 1.544 Mbps/128Kbps in a balanced manner throughout rural, suburban, and urban areas.

Many legislators and residents take issue with this “certification” of service as nearly 1 million residents have NO service. PSATS will be analyzing this report as it appears at odds with findings from other broadband studies. [Click here](#) to read the report.

[Two New Reports Look at Impact of Single-Use Plastic Regulations](#)

Act 20 of 2019 preempted municipalities from enacting bans on single-use plastics through July 1, 2020, and required the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to evaluate the “environmental impact and any impact upon residents of this Commonwealth from any regulation impacting single-use plastics, reusable plastics, auxiliary containers, wrappings, or polystyrene containers.” In addition, Act 20 charged the Independent Fiscal Office with evaluating the economic impact from regulation of single-use plastics. Both reports were released yesterday. [Read full story.](#)

The July issue of the Township News, including a Digital Version, Is Now Available

As e-commerce explodes, particularly in the wake of COVID-19, Pennsylvania is quickly becoming an attractive location for warehouses, fulfillment centers, delivery trucks, and other byproducts of the industry. This month's cover article explores the booming e-commerce business and what it means for townships. The July issue also contains articles on the 30th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, waging war on summertime pests, and what townships need to know about municipal bonds.

Subscribers to the News can access their digital copy by signing in to <https://connect.psats.org/home> and clicking on the "Your Monthly Magazine Just Went Digital" box.

Not yet a subscriber? You can check out the free cover article [here](#) and learn how to subscribe to the News [here](#).



Legislation & Policy



The Senate has recessed to the call of the President Pro Tempore. The House is scheduled to return to session on Tuesday July 7th.

Police Reform Now in Governor's Hands

After unanimous passage in both the House and Senate, two police reforms bills are headed to the Governor's desk, who is expected to sign them upon arrival.

Yesterday, the Senate unanimously passed both police reform bills, 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.

Senate Approves Personal Delivery Device Legislation

On June 30th the Senate approved SB 1199 which would provide for the operation of personal delivery devices (PDDs) in Pennsylvania. PDDs are autonomous robots designed to deliver packages to consumers. SB 1199 would authorize local governments to prohibit PDDs on local roadways and pedestrian areas if they would constitute a hazard.

PSATS successfully pressed for an amendment to clearly provide local governments with the ability to restrict the operation of PDDs on local roads and sidewalks, when applicable. The amended bill will now go to the House for consideration.

Learn

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.



Police Use Of Force & Local Government Oversight - Virtual Class - 7/8/20

During these turbulent times, an assessment of your police department's use of force policies and internal affairs procedures is recommended for municipal officials responsible for police oversight. On July 8, from 9:30-11:00 am, PSATS will be hosting a virtual class on "Police Use of Force & Local Government Oversight," in which Christopher Gerber and Andrew Rongaus of Siana Law will familiarize local elected and appointed officials with the fundamentals of lawful and excessive use of force, internal affairs procedures, and lawful and unlawful public protests. They will also identify common mistakes by municipal police policymakers. For more information and to register, [click here](#).



[Webinar - Blight Busting: A “Low Hanging Fruit” In The Fight Against Blight - 7/8/20](#)

In this webinar, you will receive an overview of the benefits and nuances of a commonly used tool – vacant property registries. Implemented correctly, a “VPRO” delivers your township valuable information, efficiencies, savings and revenue, all with no out-of-pocket costs to the township. Join Michael Halpern of MuniReg LLC as he reviews how adding this to your township’s toolbox will help it in the fight against blight. Qualifies for 1 PMGA Planning/Zoning Point. [Click here](#) to register.

[Five Cardiac Township Events And The CPR To Address Them - Virtual - 7/8/20](#)

The life of a township official and administrator has its highs and lows. Certain events, however, will stop your heart. The presenter will cover several of those, including the loss of an employee, failure to file a critical form, a cyber attack, a natural disaster, and a EPA fine or administrative order. While it's impossible to anticipate every heart-stopping event, there are systems and processes that officials can implement to mitigate the impact. Those solutions will be analyzed and discussed. Qualifies for 1 PMGA Public Works Point. Eligible for 1 CLE Credit. [Click here](#) to register.

[Webinar - How To Manage Work Relationships More Effectively - 7/15/20](#)

The relationships we have with our co-workers determine, in large part, how effective we are at our jobs and even how happy we are outside of work. However, as a busy township professional, you may feel that improving work relationships takes a lot of time and skills that may be outside of your comfort zone. The good news is, with some awareness and practice, everyone can develop better relationships at work. Join us on July 15th for an interactive webinar to explore how you can manage work relationships more effectively. Qualifies for 1 PMGA Administration Point. [Click here](#) to



register.

[Partnering With Your Police Chief - Virtual - 7/15/20](#)

In this workshop, attendees will learn best practices for recruiting and hiring a police chief, including conducting skills assessments, figuring the "fit" for their particular community, and the importance of a thorough background investigation. Qualifies for 1 PMGA Public Safety Point. [Click here](#) to register



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



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