



TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NYS Lifts Restrictive Limit on Catered Events at Private Residences Following Pleas by East Hampton Town Supervisor, East End Supervisors and Mayors Association, and Industry Representatives

Local catering industry and associated businesses would have been severely impacted by maximum “social gathering” limit at residences

East Hampton Town Supervisor Peter Van Scoyoc joined East Hampton catering business owners in an appeal to Governor Cuomo for fair, equitable treatment to protect key economic sector

Residential “catered event” limits under COVID safety regulations, allowing a maximum of 25 people outdoors and 10 people indoors, were viewed as unnecessarily restrictive while gathering limits at commercial venues allowed groups of 100 inside, 200 out, and larger groups with testing protocols

“I am pleased to see that New York State has revised the rules regarding catered events at residential properties,” said Supervisor Van Scoyoc. “The disparity between the size of groups allowed at residences versus commercial event venues appeared arbitrary and unrelated to the legitimate health concerns regarding groups of people gathering together. The threat of COVID-19 is not greater in one setting versus another when the same health protocols are followed.”

According to an announcement by Gov. Andrew Cuomo today, catered events can resume at residences beginning on May 3, with guest lists larger than the “residential gathering: limit as long as the events are staffed by a professional licensed caterer and they strictly adhere to all health and safety guidance.

Mr. Van Scoyoc said he had fought hard for review and revision of the state rule, raising the matter with Governor Cuomo’s representatives and with regional town supervisors, facilitating a letter to the Governor from the East End Supervisors and Mayors Association, and participating in an industry roundtable discussion with local business owners who were extremely concerned about the effect of the regulations on their businesses, which have already been negatively impacted by the pandemic.

Local caterers, who employ numerous year-round residents, lobbied hard for the change, citing an unfair impact to their businesses, which have suffered under the pandemic. Numerous other local businesses that provide ancillary services for parties, from florists to party equipment rentals, and so on, were also impacted.

“The previous limits, allowing only 25 people maximum outdoors, and 10 people indoors, would have had an unfair and unnecessary impact on all of our local businesses and workers that rely on income from the many catered events held at residential properties in our town during the summer season,” said East Hampton Town Supervisor Peter Van Scoyoc.