



CITY OF TRENTON
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

W. Reed Gusciora
Mayor

August 5, 2022

Kathy McBride, Council President
Trenton City Council
Trenton, NJ 08608

Dear Council President:

Yesterday the Biden Administration declared the monkeypox outbreak to be a public health emergency. This declaration follows the World Health Organization (WHO)'s announcement that monkeypox is a public health emergency of international concern. Since mid-May, there have been over 6,000 confirmed cases in the United States. Moreover, there are more than 1500 cases in New York and **185 reported cases in New Jersey. Mercer County has five (5) reported cases as of yesterday.**

It was disappointing to hear that you refused to entertain a walk-on Resolution by Councilwoman Marge Caldwell-Wilson to address this growing crisis and that you further would not allow the subject matter to be disclosed on the record. The purpose of this resolution is to ensure that the city will be adequately prepared to address this public health emergency.

Moreover, with your blocking of payment for Covid vaccination and testing services, it has endangered our ability to partner with public health providers. While we need to continue to administer Covid vaccines and testing, we now have to prepare for monkeypox which is expected to spread rapidly to this region.

Respectfully, I am requesting your cooperation in an emergency Council meeting to discuss our monkeypox and Covid preparation response; and the need to dedicate resources to ensure our residents are protected.

Yours very truly

W. Reed Gusciora
Mayor

cc: Honorable Council Members
Jacquelyn Suarez, DCA
Dr. Adela Lopez, Director Health and Human Services
Arch Liston, Chief of Staff
Adam Cruz, Business Administrator
Brandon Garcia, Clerk