



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact:

Richard Deaney, Business Administrator

City of Margate

609-822-0432

[deaney\\_richard@margate-nj.com](mailto:deaney_richard@margate-nj.com)

### **The City of Margate Announces Partial North Essex Avenue Closure, June 15 – September 13**

**Margate, NJ – June 11, 2021** – The ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic has resulted in significant hardships to both individuals and businesses within the nation and particularly within New Jersey. Governor Murphy and the NJ State Legislature realized this and extended SR 2020-10 until November 30, 2022 permitting an extension of outdoor dining. Acting within the specifics of the state resolution the City of Margate in 2020 temporarily closed the right of way in the Unit Block of North Essex Avenue from Oak Grove Avenue to Ventnor Avenue from June 15, thru November 13, 2020. Under authority of the stated goals of the ongoing state resolution, the Margate City Commission has again acted to close a portion of the right of way of North Essex Avenue to traffic but for a REDUCED TIME PERIOD OF June 15 until September 13.

Before making this difficult decision, the Commission sought input from stakeholders and asked the Police Department to coordinate this effort with the primary goal of maintaining public safety. In 2020 during the five month closure the police department received seven (7) noise complaints associated with the expansion of premises of Bocca Restaurant. Of the seven (7) complaints, six (6) were from the same individual. In addition to noise, lack of parking was the primary issue.

To address the noise issue along this block and in other areas of the city where outdoor dining was extended, Ordinance #124-2021 was introduced with specific hours for music and dining. All music is to cease at 8:00pm and food or beverage service is to cease at 10:00pm. This ordinance effects all businesses operating under the state permitted expansion of premises COVID related initiative.

The Police Department also addressed parking concerns of North Essex residents. All of the homes in the area have off street parking but to limit on street parking in the area, permit parking will be instituted to assist home owners with less vehicle density.

In an effort to assist Hot Bagels, an adjoining business with transient traffic, Bocca agreed to change the delivery schedule to a time frame more favorable to her business. Also, along a portion of Ventnor Avenue there will be a temporary 15 minute zone. Additionally, Hot Bagels will be given a parking spot, in the closed area, to assist with deliveries.

There has been much thought by the Margate City Commission into decisions made to ensure the health and safety of Margate residents and visitors as well as the health and strength of our vibrant business community during the past 16 months. While the immediate emergency has subsided and most of us yearn for it to be completely ended there are many people still reeling from loss, feeling the effects of lingering illness or facing a near future of rebuilding a business or finding a suitable job.

For more information on the City of Margate, NJ, visit [margate-nj.com](http://margate-nj.com).

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