



NEW JERSEY SENATE

SENATE CHAMBERS

P.O. BOX 099

TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625-0099

September 27, 2018

Tahesha Way
Secretary of State
State of New Jersey
125 West State Street
Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Ms. Way:

We, a bipartisan coalition of New Jersey State Senators elected to represent Bergen County, have several questions and concerns about the recently-ordered election process to replace disgraced ex-Sheriff Michael Saudino. First and foremost, whatever process is ultimately pursued to replace Sheriff Saudino must be fair, transparent, contain unimpeachable integrity and comport with State laws.

We have received conflicting reports regarding whether Sheriff Saudino has officially resigned from his post. As you are aware, N.J.S.A. 40A:9-24 states that an official resignation requires the county officer to file his resignation, in writing, with the Governor and Secretary of State. In fact, the statute explicitly states that "no resignation made in any other way or pretended to be made, shall be valid." If such official resignation has indeed been filed and received, we request that a copy be sent to the undersigned as soon as possible.

Also, it has been reported that Sheriff Saudino's replacement will be chosen through an election on November 6th, despite the fact that approximately 40,000 absentee and mail-in ballots that do not list Sheriff Candidates were already sent to Bergen County residents. A new batch of ballots will therefore be sent, with the candidates listed. Our concern then, is what will be done with those ballots that have already been mailed-in? And, if these same individuals who receive new ballots – this time containing candidates for Sheriff – will essentially have their votes counted twice? The chaos resulting from 40,000 voters receiving two ballots is neither necessary nor acceptable. Moreover, will an independent candidate have an opportunity to seek this office, given the extraordinarily tight time-frame?

As Legislators, we will endeavor to enact legislation that addresses similar situations that may arise in the future, if it is indeed now believed to be unclear. In the meantime, given the importance of filling this critical vacancy in a manner that is fair to all and contains

the level of integrity that the people of Bergen County deserve, we believe it best to allow the vacancy to be filled by Gubernatorial appointment, with the advice and consent of the Senate.

Very Truly Yours,


Senator Paul Sarlo
District 36


Senator Loretta Weinberg
District 35


Senator Nellie Pou
District 35


Senator Joseph Lagana
District 38


Senator Gerald Cardinale
District 39

