

CITY HALL • 340 NORTH WASHINGTON AVENUE • SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA 18503 • PHONE: 570-348-4101 • FAX: 570-348-4251

April 4, 2020

Mr. Dave Leach President and CEO Greyhound Lines, Inc. P.O. Box 660362 Dallas, TX 75266

Dear Mr. Leach,

On behalf of the citizens of Scranton, I write to you seeking your assistance in fighting the current COVID-19 epidemic and protecting the safety and welfare of Scranton residents. Unfortunately, we have come to the point here where we must ask that you immediately suspend your services into Scranton for the duration of this pandemic.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has advised residents of nearby states New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut to refrain from non-essential domestic travel. As of today, over 110,000 New York residents, nearly 30,000 New Jersey residents, and approximately 5,000 Connecticut residents have tested positive for the virus, with 3,565; 647; and 132 coronavirus-related deaths, respectively. Scranton is in close proximity to the greater New York City area with many residents traveling regularly to Northeastern Pennsylvania.

As this crisis continues to develop and perhaps worsen, we fear our own community will be put at risk by individuals and families traveling to and from the New York City area. While we recognize that there are travelers who use Greyhound's services to get to jobs where they perform essential services, the risk of further spreading this virus throughout Scranton and surrounding areas is simply too great for us not to take all mitigating steps within our power.

Moreover, Scranton is home to robust healthcare access and our area hospitals must be able to care for our community. That will be a challenge as the COVID-19 crisis continues but could become daunting if our hospitals experience an influx of out-of-state patients and our residents experience greater exposure from persons traveling to our area from coronavirus "hot spots".

I have appreciated the open dialogue with your Greyhound team in the past weeks. Until this point we have understood that you have seen steadily decreasing numbers of passengers (a daily average of just five this past week), implemented screening procedures to evaluate passengers for COVID-19 symptoms before boarding, provided PPE for passengers, and instructed passengers that if they are coming from the greater New York City area they must self-isolate for 14 days upon arrival, per CDC guidance.

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Each of us must exercise all means within our power to limit COVID-19 exposure and it is my duty to protect the welfare of the citizens of Scranton; a duty that requires me to request that Greyhound Lines, Inc. suspend its services entirely for the duration of this pandemic.

Thank you for your attention to this immediate need. We are hopeful we can work together to implement all possible safeguards – even while they were unimaginable just weeks ago – to protect public health and save lives.

Sincerely,

Paige G. Cognetti

Mayor, City of Scranton, PA

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CC:

William Gaughan, Scranton City Council President Chris Chermak, Lackawanna County Commissioner Debi Domenick, Lackawanna County Commissioner Jerry Notarianni, Lackawanna County Commissioner Tammy Durham, Greyhound Lines, Inc. Regional Vice President, Northeast Greg Cohen, 2349 Solutions