



*Grand Council of Cryptic Masons*  
*State of New York*  
Right Illustrious Kenneth R. Howe, Jr.  
Grand Recorder  
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November 12, 2020

**EDICT No. 3 - 2020**

Companions,

We are all aware that the Covid-19 Pandemic is once again striking with rapid increases throughout our State. We all know that as citizens we should heed the advice of the Governor of New York State, the NY State Health Department and any local governmental entities addressing the concerns around Covid-19. Based upon the recent change this week by the Governor that gatherings be restrictive to no larger than ten individuals and upon receipt of the most recent communication from the M.:W.: William M. Sardone, Grand Master of Masons of the State of NY that all Masons shall abide by the new governmental regulation for combating this pandemic with no gathering above ten people and that if in a yellow zone designation for your area that all Masonic activity shall halt in person until not at that level, I, M. Ill. Phil Chandler, the Most Illustrious Grand Master of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of NY by the authority of my Office and that of the Constitution and General Regulations issue the following **EDICT** to remain in effect until such time that I or the Grand Council in Assembly rescinds it.

**Whereas** the virus is still rampant throughout NY State and we are concern for the health and well-being of our members throughout this state,

**Therefore**, I, as Most Illustrious Grand Master do hereby issue and order that all Councils will lock down if their geographic area reaches the Yellow Level of health concern from the pandemic and/or directed to do so by the State of NY. The Councils are now and into the future empowered to hold Virtual Assemblies if the Illustrious Master so chooses in order to conduct the Council's necessary business including financial and that the proceedings of the same shall be ratified immediately at the next in person Assembly of said Council; and further

If the geographic area is not in that danger Zone and the Council chooses to hold an in person assembly the Council **shall abide** by the maximum gathering size issued by the State of NY at the time, (presently ten people); and further

No Council within this jurisdiction will be allowed to confer any Cryptic Degree in person at the present time due to limit on size of attendance; and further

That All Councils holding in person gatherings **MUST CONTINUE TO ABIDE** by the Protocols in place for holding in person assemblies----**MASKS** must be worn at all times, **Hand Washing** and **Sanitizing** practiced; and further

That if the Grand Master of Masons in the State of New York issues further governance upon the Craft to protect its members each Council and its members shall immediately adhere to that directive and this Edict may possibly become moot.

**NOW THEREFORE**, I, Order and Direct that this Edict be distributed to the membership of each Council throughout the State of NY, and entered in full upon the Permanent Records of the Council thereof, and to be read in every Council at its first Assembly, Stated or Special, and to be spread in full upon the minutes of such. Witness my hand and that of the Grand Recorder's under the seal of the Grand Council this 12<sup>th</sup> Day of November, 2020 and A.:Dep.: 3020.

Finally my Companions, please remain safe, stay well and be healthy! May you and yours have a most Blessed Thanksgiving holiday. God Bless!

Zealously,

M.:I.: Phil Chandler

*M.:I.: Phillip J. Chandler*  
Most Illustrious Grand Master

R.:I.: Kenneth R. Howe, Jr.

*RI Kenneth R. Howe, Jr.*  
Grand Recorder

