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Governor Says Resorts are Worried The Mayor's Comment about Reopening

Novel Coronavirus was first seen in Wuhan, China in late December 2019. It was later officially recognized as a pandemic on March 11th, 2020. Four days after this announcement, the Governor of Nevada placed the state on lockdown by issuing stay-at-home orders and closing nonessential businesses. The world and United States economy has been hit hard since the announcement of the pandemic. Nevada's economy heavily relies on tourism and due to the worldwide lockdown and the need to practice social distancing, Nevada is one of the states that is the hardest hit. Many of the benefits that local's receive are due to the large amount of revenue generated by the Las Vegas Strip. With millions out of a job, and with revenue stuck at zero due to the stay at home orders, Mayor Goodman, the Mayor of Las Vegas, opposed the orders calling it "nonsense" or "insanity." Her comments have led to resorts in the area to call her comments worrisome as they may be harming the future of tourism in Nevada. Furthermore, people in Las Vegas have been taking action in an attempt to recall the mayor over her response to the pandemic.

In this episode, the Governor of Nevada, Governor Sisolak clarifies the requirements needed to slowly reopen the Nevada economy as well as his disapproval of Mayor Goodman's

response to the crisis. He discusses this with the host of KNPR, Joe Schoenmann. Governor Sisolak clarifies that he is not only looking at the total number of increased cases when deciding to open Nevada, but the percent of positive cases to the increased amount of testing he has implemented statewide. He is also looking at the capacity of the hospitals and their readiness to deal with more cases. Additionally, he discusses the future of Las Vegas' industries and how the public will respond to reopening. He talks about how taxes may increase and budget cuts may occur depending on how much revenue is accrued once Nevada businesses reopen.

Sisolak also makes a point that the Mayor's comments are ignorant and hypocritical while reminding her that as governor, he has the final say. Following an interview with CNN, resort operators called him almost immediately to discuss her dangerous comments. She calls to reopen Nevada and offer the local population as a control group. He makes it clear that she does not hold power over Las Vegas despite being the Mayor since he is ranked above her and his ruling supercede hers. He cites that her control is limited to "zoning issues" since she is not in control of the industries such as gaming.

His comments show the hierarchy in the American political system especially between the State and local level. The constitution only recognizes the Federal and State government. The constitution specifies that "powers not granted to the federal government are reserved for the states and the people." Local governments operate under different rules that were created by the state. As a result, local governments have different laws and practices; however, the State government can trump its decisions. Much of America's coronavirus response is handled at the state level. California, Washington, and New York were hotspots in the Coronavirus outbreak. The governors of those states have resolved to not fully rely on the federal government or the

Trump administration. The federal government and the trump administration has arguably been ineffective and counterproductive to deal with the pandemic. The President does not fully trust or approve of testing saying it “America look bad” and that wearing a mask would “send the wrong message.” These statements came after the president recommended people should intake disinfectant to fight the virus.

The discussion held in this episode was focused on the criteria and concerns of reopening Nevada, especially the Las Vegas Strip. The two parties did not disagree or argue. Instead, the radio host wanted to discuss the issues at hand and get the most amount of information since. The future of Nevada will depend on the attitudes of the local population and the revenue generated in the coming years. Taxes and budget cuts were a part of the important concerns since Nevada taxes are kept low due to the money generated by the gaming, casino, and tourism industry. This talk was intended to discuss and dispel the worries caused by the comments of Mayor Goodman.