

## Debra Thompson

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**From:** Todd Hampton <thampton@hammerandwikan.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 28, 2021 8:54 AM  
**To:** Assembly  
**Subject:** Lift the Mandate!

Assembly,

I am writing in concerning the assembly's decision to impose a masking mandate on this community. I would like it be known, my position on this issue is in **NO WAY** associated with that of the company I work for.

In 2013 I retired from the United States Coast Guard, having served you and the rest of this nation for 25 years. As I grew up near here, I decided to settle in Petersburg. One of the finer aspects I really appreciated was the welcome hand of the community, as well as the comradery amongst the people. It was as if the people of this town revered one another as family. And, to see everybody come together to publicly celebrate the holidays, especially Mayfest, was amazing.

In 2020, as COVID-19 became the only topic of reporting from any news station, our lives all changed significantly, bringing all those celebrations to a screeching halt. I will agree, initially, there was widespread concerns about how we all should be conducting ourselves. However, as the science of this flu became more available, as well as the methods to minimize the risk of contracting it, it's unfortunate the focus of a nation was on whether or not people were wearing a mask NOT rated for particulate protection nor splash rated. The media, personal beliefs and widespread paranoia drove an unnecessary division of the people. I find it so unfortunate the opinions and beliefs of so few feel justified in dictating a mandatory course of action for an entire community. What is even more disconcerting is our employees, who are required to abide by your mandate, observe the hypocrisy of those we would expect to set a better example, come into our business NOT wearing masks. I'm speaking of those employees of the borough, the hospital and clinic, the school district, and, unbelievably, even employees of Alaska Airlines. If the governing delegates of this town are going to presume to make decisions for everybody else, maybe you should govern your own shops first.

I can not speak for other business in Petersburg, but I can tell you all the employees under my charge feel pretty unappreciated. They exhaust every effort securing goods from a vast supply chain, ensuring their customers can still enjoy the privilege of shopping for and purchasing many of their favorite products on a daily basis. But, instead of a *thank you*, the employees are faced with the scrutiny of those who's focus is that of personal opinion.

Despite the constant evolution, like cancer, HIV, or any other virus or illness, COVID-19 is in our lives now. WE WILL ADAPT!! Wearing a mask is not going to stop it. The decline in positive cases since your mandate is coincidental. To believe otherwise is arrogant presumption.

This town no longer emits that feeling of family or comradery.

Thank You!

**Todd Hampton**  
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