

Debra Thompson

From: Jim Floyd <jfloyd@hammerandwikan.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 17, 2021 6:23 PM
To: Assembly
Subject: Ordinance #2021-20

Hello I am Jim Floyd General Manager of Hammer and Wikan.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you this evening. I am glad the meeting was postponed; I realize the municipal code doesn't define a time for the agenda to be posted. Only that it is reasonable. I felt that since this will affect all citizens it was reasonable to give us the normal 72 hours standard that you have historically practiced gathering feedback.

Many people were not aware of the emergency meeting and the subsequent mandate. The frustration as a result of that meeting and lack of "compliance" and the authorship of this mandate is in large part due to poor communication.

The letter you received, and the threat of closure is from the essential businesses, and we have received support from over 30 local businesses. We are against the idea of holding businesses accountable to enforce the mandates and intervene in the choices that the general public choose to make.

We were never consulted on this issue and are very frustrated at the lack of inclusion. We are not equipped to enforce what you are asking. We are short on manpower and resources, the same as we have heard from both the medical community and the schools. We are overworked, stressed, and stretched to the limit. In addition, it is not right that we require our employees to be the enforcers in addition to their normal job functions. I want to protect my employees from possible negative reactions from enforcement of the mandate.

The issue is that you are fighting human nature. People do not like being forced upon ideals in which they do not believe in. This is a polarized issue that has become weaponized by trying to put punitive damage on it.

Just because you have the power to do something doesn't mean it is right. I suggest you slow down and really listen to all sides. The discussion of fines without due process is not ok. I am sure that our great law enforcement agents have better things to do than stand in local businesses policing masking mandates and handing out tickets to those who choose to not follow.

On behalf of the Petersburg Coalition of Small Businesses Vote no on Ordinance #2021-20

As a reminder, no one has been infected with the virus in any of our essential businesses.