

Debra Thompson

From: Max Worhatch <mnmnwiv60@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 1:35 PM
To: Assembly
Subject: ordinance #2021-20

Dear Petersburg Borough Assembly Members-

I'm writing today to voice my opposition to ordinance #2021-20.

It is becoming apparent that we are no longer living in a pandemic, and that COVID-19 is endemic. It is a waste of time, energy, and resources to try to control the spread of this virus. The time, energy, and resources would be much better spent on care of the very small percentage of people who require it. An ordinance like this is simply more of this dog chasing its tail. Nothing constructive comes of it, and there is no end to the game. Between the vaccinated and cases we have had in town, we have to be getting very close to at least a respite in cases. Yesterday we saw the number drop again. It is likely our spike is over for the time being.

An ordinance like this is something that we would have expected two years ago. We know a lot more now. We know people who are vaccinated can still contract the virus, and pass it on to close contacts. We know how to better treat those with life threatening reactions to the virus.

Ordinance #2021-20 which will fine people not wearing a mask in a building, and fine the owner of businesses who do not enforce it, and the owner of the building, is not necessary and will do nothing to lower cases. An assembly member in the last meeting made a statement to the effect that he knows masks work, because otherwise every plane flight would be a super spreader event if they didn't. I know of several people who have flown to town who tested positive. Is the airline contacted and

are the people who were on the flight contact traced? Pretty sure they are not. Why? I'll tell you. Because it would take up too much time and money, and wouldn't do anything except stop regular airline flights. I haven't heard of a single outbreak associated with an airline flight. I would point out that I have also not heard of any outbreaks being associated with any of the retail businesses in town. This ordinance, although it may look good (dog chasing tail), attempts to fix something that hasn't proven to be a problem. If there are in fact businesses that want to require masks in their business, they have a complete and absolute right to deny anyone who doesn't comply access to their establishment. They can ask the person to leave, not accept their money, and notify the police if the person will not leave of their own accord. Trespass is illegal, and any business has the right to refuse service to anyone they choose. The problem is theirs, not the entire borough. The proposed ordinance is in effect deputizing local businesses as mask police. It is basically requiring every business to have a bouncer at the door telling people they must mask to spend their hard earned dollars in town. All businesses in this town have expressed that there is a shortage of labor available. Many businesses, if this ordinance passes, will have to come up with another employee, or designate one of their current employees that already has duties associated with their position. This is what makes this onerous and heavy handed. When government starts telling people how they have to manage their business, burdening them with unfunded mandates that could require additional expense, to accomplish nothing more than a futile attempt to stop the massive outbreaks we have not been seeing in the retail sector, you will get push back. This is a non-nonsensical solution to a non-existent problem.

Please avoid being divisive and vote no on Ordinance #2021-20.

Respectfully,

Max Worhatch