

November 14th

To the Petersburg Assembly,

We are writing this letter in opposition to the proposed Ordinance #2021-20 which would result in fining local businesses for not enforcing the mask mandates.

This is not a letter in opposition to masking, but the inappropriate level of arrogance and overreach of government into our community's private business.

Since the date, this ordinance was proposed not a single assembly person has reached out to retail vendors to assess impacts that such a mandate would demand of business.

As you may have heard, retail labor is in short supply. Main street businesses have reduced hours and, in some cases, closed, due to this labor shortage. Requiring businesses, the extra responsibility of policing borough mandates will likely strain an already fragile workforce. Our essential businesses have been slogging through business with Covid since day one. There have been no major or even minor outbreaks associated with retail businesses for nearly two years, when this mess started. Cases have decreased of late, and this should be considered before draconian measures such as these are implemented. Those patrons who need our essential services may not receive them as extreme mandates measures such as this would create more demand on businesses already stretched.

Since the assembly continues to selectively listen to only one sector of our community without consideration to the rest, over 25 local businesses, mostly essential have rallied in opposition.

If the assembly approves this mandate, we will close our businesses. We will put a sign on the door which will read: "**CLOSED DUE TO GOVERNMENT OVERREACH**"- Contact your borough assembly members." It will hurt us, it will hurt our employees, the people who rely on our services, and it will hurt the borough in tax receipts. It is unfortunate, but after having jumped through hoops to keep our doors open for two years, this mandate to enforce an ordinance at our own expense, for another's actions is just too much.

In closing, we realize that sensibility is in short supply these days. Don't run with it. Please vote NO on Ordinance #2021-20.

Sincerely,

Hammer & Wikan, Trading Union, Petersburg Rexall, Diamantes, Reid Brothers, Rock N Road, Rocky's Marine, Napa, Piston & Rudder, Kito's, Harbor Bar and Liquor, Alaska Fiber, The Tree's, Alaska Floor Covering, Papa Bears, 420, The Elks, The Moose, Jensen Rentals, The Cedar Box, Blomster Hus, Nordic Elite Business Services, Nordic Automotive, Beachcomber, Mattingly Electric, Apex Refrigeration and heating.....