

Debra Thompson

From: Katie Holmlund <kholmlundak@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 4, 2021 6:48 PM
To: Assembly
Subject: Ordinance #2021-19

Dear Assembly Members,

I first would like to thank you all for your service to our community, unfortunately the challenges of public service continue to drag on and I hope you all know that there is a significant population of community members who are deeply grateful to you all.

The past week has been troubling in many ways, hearing reports of staff remaining at work while knowingly ill and making jokes about that is beyond comprehension to me. Hearing some of our fellow community members did not value Public Health recommendations to isolate when exposed to what is absolutely a dangerous virus is unsettling and disheartening. Yes, fine, many of those diagnosed with COVID-19 survive, but as witnessed within my own family (outside Petersburg) survive with significant impact to cognitive abilities and daily struggles to recoup "normal" life activities. Aside from those falling ill with COVID-19 we have the collective trauma of a global pandemic and our children are bearing the brunt of that weight. Our kids need to be in school, they need dance class, swim team, after school clubs, our library's safe and warm space, and we as adults have been failing them beyond measure. I respectfully ask the Petersburg Borough Assembly to vote to pass Ordinance #2021-19 and require and enforce a mask mandate until no later than December 6, 2021. Masking can help alleviate the stress placed on schools, childcare programs, and our medical center. It is quite simply one of the easiest preventive strategies for us to take as a community to help slow the spread of COVID-19 and to show that Petersburg protects their own and values all individuals who choose to call this town home.

Thank you for considering this ordinance and taking the time to read through, what I imagine will be, numerous opinions on the matter. Thank you again.

Respectfully,
Katie Holmlund