

Debra Thompson

From: MaryBeth Johnson <marybethkjohnson@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 5, 2021 2:28 PM
To: Assembly
Subject: Re: Ordinance #2021-19
Attachments: Comments re Ordinance #2021-19.docx

Good Afternoon,

Please see attached comments.

Thank you,

Bessie Johnson

To The Petersburg Borough Assembly,

My name is Bessie Johnson and I am writing this letter in support of Ordinance #2021-19 to implement masking in all buildings open to the public within the Borough of Petersburg. As an employee of PMC and a mother I would like to express my full support of this ordinance. In September Petersburg saw a surge in Covid-19 cases with a case count as high as 19 in September and 38 in October. Cases briefly declined, but we are still seeing a continuation of that surge with a case count of 50 as of Thursday November 4th. The community is going on 2 months of high case counts and I am relieved and grateful to see the Borough Assembly calling this emergency meeting to implement another mask mandate.

I support this ordinance as a mother to a 4-year-old who is not yet old enough to receive the Covid-19 vaccine. I believe people should care about the safety of those around them. My son is unvaccinated and therefore at increased risk of contracting Covid-19. I had hoped the community of Petersburg would mask for the safety of those around them. I had hoped that during surges individuals, families, businesses and establishments would take it upon themselves to mask, especially where there is a congregation of people. Unfortunately, not enough are participating in mitigation measures as evidenced by this ongoing outbreak. I am in full support of masking in all buildings open to the public and I hope this ordinance will include privately owned daycares as well.

I feel public masking should be implemented immediately for the safety of our community as Petersburg, the State of Alaska, the United States and the world continue fighting this threat. Let's look out for one another by getting vaccinated, social distancing, practicing hand hygiene, forgoing large social gatherings and implementing public masking.

Thank you to the School District staff for their continued efforts in providing Covid testing to students. Thank you to my co-workers at PMC who are working long and intense hours. Thank you to the Borough Assembly for holding this emergency meeting and keeping the safety of Petersburg residents at the forefront.

Bessie Johnson