

Debra Thompson

From: Tom Abbott <teabbott@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 9, 2021 9:08 PM
To: Assembly
Cc: sgeisbrecht@petersburgak.gov
Subject: Enforcement of masking mandate

Petersburg Assembly and Steve,

Thank you for your work and your service especially through this difficult time of a challenging public health crisis in our community. I applaud you for your decisive move to declare a mandate requiring the wearing of a mask for all choosing to enter any building in the borough which is open to the public. Many in our community are vulnerable to serious illness should they contract COVID, some elderly, some with co-morbidities. We know from listening to medical experts and public health bulletins that wearing a mask inside public spaces will reduce the potential for harming others.

It has become clear that many in our community are following the advice of public health bulletins, yet unfortunately, others still do not.

The business community has responded admirably in these times, quickly changing daily operations, offering delivery or curbside services. However, many in the community refuse to take advantage of these opportunities and still enter inside public spaces without wearing a mask.

How do they know the person next to them is not undergoing treatment for illness at our medical center? What if that person is going to the home of a neighbor, shut-in with an illness? So many variables as to why wearing a mask is the simplest way to reduce risk.

My suggestion is a short-term attempt to enforce the mask mandate in an effort to bring this current public health spike in positive COVID cases under control. Borough funds received for COVID related needs and not yet expensed could be invested in this effort.

Modeling the airport testing employment opportunities in place months ago: hire local residents to monitor the more publicly populated buildings.

Examples being - grocery stores, the post office, hardware...

The hired monitors would have the authority to stop folks from entering the building if they refused to wear a mask.

Again, accommodations may be made to provide products or services without entering. Personal liberties may be diminished in the common good of the public health. This has been proven to be true countless times in the history of our republic. It has been upheld time and again in the courts. In our small, wonderful community, we can do this and with expediency return to more normal times.

Again, thank you for your service. Thank you for your consideration and your time.

Sincerely,
Tom Abbott

Sent from my iPad