

RESOLUTION No. 1252

A RESOLUTION DECLARING AN ECONOMIC, MENTAL HEALTH, AND CRIMINAL ACTIVITY CRISIS DUE TO THE CURRENT COVID-RELATED STATE EMERGENCY DECLARATION AND RELATING OR-OSHA MANDATES AND GUIDANCE

WHEREAS the Oregon Governor's Executive Order 20-03: Declaration of Emergency due to COVID-19, and all subsequent and related OR-OSHA guidance, and present and future executive order extensions of such are arbitrary and excessive for small communities like Harrisburg; and

WHEREAS we as a municipality have no legal authority to summarily flout these mandates, guidelines, and enforcement by OR-OSHA, and therefore cannot protect any local business from State-directed targeting, repercussions, and penalties if such local business personally chooses to; and

WHEREAS we also recognize that neither city, county nor state government has the legal right to flout the Oregon State or the United States Constitutions; and

WHEREAS we do believe our citizens are fully capable of making their private, individual healthcare and lifestyle decisions themselves; and

WHEREAS we recognize that COVID-19 is indeed a contagious virus and contagious viruses do exist in the world; and

WHEREAS science has shown over the last year that COVID-19 is largely survivable and continual lockdowns do not stop its spread; and

WHEREAS all initial models and projections used to justify initial state emergency mandates have been proven inaccurate over the past year; and

WHEREAS City of Harrisburg is obligated to adopt regulations designed to promote the public safety and general welfare of its citizenry; and

WHEREAS many of our local businesses directly attribute state lockdowns and OR-OSHA guidelines as solely responsible for their inability to earn a living or pursue other rights as outlined in our State and U.S. Constitutions, and therefore we believe their livelihood is being unconstitutionally and negatively impacted by government without due compensation; and

WHEREAS State agencies have been given abusive authority to punitively fine and shutter businesses, thereby breaking the trust relationship essential to carrying out their functions; and

WHEREAS businesses in Harrisburg are struggling to find employees because of the enhanced unemployment benefits and in many cases unemployment benefits pay more than what the employer can offer them; and

WHEREAS businesses are on the brink of permanent closure, creating a fiscal emergency and a devastated local economy; and

WHEREAS a business in Harrisburg has already closed their doors permanently because of the Governor's emergency declaration, with other businesses also being in danger of closing; and

WHEREAS the Governor's lockdown and masking mandates are actively creating division and unrest as those of one opinion are encouraged by it to impose their opinions over the free will of those of another; and

WHEREAS the pandemic has resulted in limitations in temporary holding cells, as well as a limited number of beds in our local County Jail; resulting in an ongoing "cite and release" system that puts criminals straight back on the streets to further victimize our community immediately after arrest; and

WHEREAS the Governor's mandates result in pitting law enforcement against law-abiding citizens rather than criminals, which damages a community's strong relationship with valued law enforcement, and which is a dynamic no community should tolerate; and

WHEREAS deliberate isolation of the ill in hospitals or the elderly left to die alone of that isolation is the cruelest of abuses and is not to be accepted in any civilized society; and

WHEREAS it is a violation of the First Amendment of the United States Constitution for a government to limit how our churches and citizens choose to practice their religious freedoms, which are crucial to mental health; and

WHEREAS social distancing and prolonged isolation are proven to create a number of mental health issues such as anxiety and depression, sometimes pushing individuals over the edge toward suicide as a last resort; and

WHEREAS that same social distancing and prolonged isolation, combined with unemployment and other stressors, are increasing cases of drug and alcohol abuse, domestic abuse, and violence; and

WHEREAS we believe in the kindness, compassion, and common sense of our citizens and businesses to help protect the most fragile and susceptible in our community; and

WHEREAS fear is a tool of untruth, manipulation, and control - characteristics all of which do not reflect the values of our citizenry; and finally.

WHEREAS, John Adams stated, "But a constitution of government once changed from freedom can never be restored. Liberty, once lost, is lost Forever".

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we declare an economic, mental health, and crime crisis due to the current COVID-related State Emergency Declaration and related OROSHA mandates and guidance, as a means of loudly and symbolically supporting our citizenry; and

BE IT RESOLVED, the City will communicate in writing with the Governor's Office to encourage the full opening of our city or suggesting other means necessary to give our citizens relief from these mandates; and

BE IT RESOLVED, the City will support upcoming legislation, dependent upon its straightforward and unarmful wording, which provides reparations to business owners who have had their businesses and income taken without compensation; and

BE IT RESOLVED, the City will support future statewide ballot initiatives and legislation that limits the duration and extent of Governor's emergency powers which may create similar lockdown scenarios during future emergencies, natural disasters, and pandemics; and

BE IT RESOLVED, the City will share this resolution with other Oregon cities, counties, and media outlets in the hope those entities will also speak more loudly; and

BE IT RESOLVED the City recognizes the citizenry of Harrisburg are free, sovereign individuals within a Constitutional, Representative Republic, not subjects, and will be recognized as such as we firmly stand to represent them.

PASSED by the City Council of the City of Harrisburg, Oregon and signed by the Mayor of Harrisburg, Oregon, this 25th day of May 2021.



Mayor of Harrisburg

ATTEST: 

City Recorder