

April 20, 2020

To the Borough Assembly Members and the Emergency Response Team:

On behalf of Tamico, Inc and its employees I am expressing my concern about a mask wearing mandate "in the workplace." We are taking a lot of precautions and trying very seriously to keep our employees working and serving the industrial needs in Petersburg during these strange times. Actually, we are always doing this, mitigating risks and following OSHA requirements. This is why I have a problem with broad guidelines and blanket policies. While our employees are in our welding shop they will be following the guidelines we have always followed, adding a cloth mask to those can actually pose greater risks than any hoped for benefit.

I have not seen where I can get an exemption for specific workplaces or even read a study and the ensuing data on the effects of mask wearing in a welding shop or a barge or on a dock. Keep in mind WE ARE social distancing, WE ARE limiting the customers in our retail/public space, WE ARE sanitizing every touched surface after every customer leaves, WE ARE using disposable gloves, WE ARE making every customer call first and be directed by an employee how to proceed, WE ARE encouraging no contact sales by offering free pick-up and delivery. If you feel a mask mandate is necessary, please use some realistic guidelines based in practical applications. Require all the customers to wear masks? Yes, good idea! Ask the businesses to provide disposable gloves for high touch point of sales areas? Yes, good idea! Tell all businesses to wear masks no matter what they are doing and who they are interacting with? No, bad idea! Put a mandate out with no implementation plan and assistance to the businesses that will have to implement it? No, bad idea!

So please look at all the implications of this mandate and the necessity of a blanket, or should I say face mask, policy on all work places.

Thank you for considering our concerns.

Carrie Martinsen, on behalf of Tamico, Inc.

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