

## Debra Thompson

---

**From:** Karen Severson <karenseverson05@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 27, 2020 1:10 PM  
**To:** Assembly  
**Subject:** Karen Severson KFSK commentary on Covid-19  
**Attachments:** Karen Severson Petersburg compelled to share thoughts on Covid 19.docx

Dear Council Members,

I was asked by someone in the community to send the Assembly a copy of my letter that was on KFSK last week.

I do not know if that is really appropriate but I will forward it as an attachment.

I have said my peace and I will not be offended if I do not get a response.

I do think that we are ALL have the same hope and goal which is to keep our community safe and our economy strong.

I truly believe the three W's, wearing a mask, washing our hands and watching our distance will help in that fight.

Thank you all for doing your best and encouraging kindness.

Sincerely,

Karen Severson

Dear Neighbors, this is Karen Severson, I have some thoughts that I feel compelled to share.

Covid-19 has been difficult for all of us in so many ways. Notably the most bizarre experience of our life time. The adjustments have been hard and understandably we all feel frustration. It has turned political and divisive to our entire country.

We are blessed to live in an America that has Freedoms. I still love and respect my neighbors even if I don't always agree with them. We can agree to disagree. But the more we are divided the more this virus will defeat us. Believe it or not, we are living in a Global Pandemic. The numbers do not lie; it is not a hoax.

One cannot be on the internet long without seeing misinformation, conspiracies, and propaganda. We need to do our own research and fact checking.

I choose to get my knowledge from many scientists, doctors, nurses and Governors' all working the front lines of this pandemic.

This is a time we should be standing in solidarity for the good of others, and for the sake of our communities and getting back on track to a strong economy again.

Doctors and Scientists repeatedly tell us that masks do not make us sick, and that they will give us and others protection from the spread of droplets that occur even from talking. Masks are the key to getting the virus under control so that we may get back to a "new normal" sooner, rather than later.

This is not the common cold or flu. It is more deadly and transmissible. How long someone can spread the virus is still under investigation. What Scientists know about Covid-19 is changing rapidly.

Scientists are discovering that silent transmission from asymptomatic persons could be responsible for half of the COVID-19 cases, especially among young people.

This spread will continue without preventative measures until we can get immunity through a vaccination, and that is not going to happen quickly.

With cases numbers low in Petersburg it is easy to think "we are okay" and that Covid-19 is not a threat "here". But, that is exactly why Florida, Texas, Arizona ,California and others, are seeing record setting case numbers and hospitals at full capacity with death tolls rising. Too many did not take it seriously until it was too late. This dire situation is growing rapidly and is out of control.

I don't want to see that happen here. We are lucky to live on an island in a small community, but my point is we are still vulnerable.

Other countries have flattened their curve by simply masking, social distancing, testing and tracing! We should want to be like them. Herd Immunity tactics from other countries has come at a high cost and not given them the results that they had hoped for and are now changing that course.

The three W's. Wear a mask, Wash your hands and Watch your distance is not unreasonable. It is crucial we get better Testing and Contract Tracing to keep the spread controlled.

Our own Covid Response Leaders and front line workers are doing a great job. It has got to be exhausting and thankless. We are lucky here in Petersburg that we can count on our leaders to be egalitarian and make decisions with thought and guidance.

Leadership that is honest, not full of hate and bigotry and lies, is what we should all hope for to get us out of this mess we are in, safer and faster.

BE STRONG TOGETHER! That was our motto a few months ago. With a long road ahead of us, I would hope with reflection we can seek that again.

The election in November is the most important one in my life time. Our future, and maybe our lives, may depend on it. Exercise your freedom of speech and VOTE!

I love the words of Senator John Lewis who passed on Friday, "Choose Love not Hate, Courage not Fear." Elect those that represent that!

With love and kindness, patience and understanding, the world can be a better place.

Governor Polis from Colorado said it well on Sunday, " That more people wearing masks would allow for other aspects of normal life to resume during the coronavirus pandemic."

He said, "this is not ideological, it is not partisan, it is science-based. Masks are a ticket to more freedom. It makes it less likely that businesses will be shuttered. It makes it less likely that people will die. It makes it more likely school will return. If we care about those things, you're going to take that as a matter of personal responsibility to protect yourself, protect others, protect our economy,"

I hope that we can be mindful to protect EVERYONE. Thank you.