

April 20, 2020

Borough Mayor and Assembly Members,

We both worked for the federal government for 43 and 34 years, respectively. Government overreach, unfortunately, was part and parcel of what we observed over that time. We honestly thought we had seen it all – until we read the agenda for today's meeting! Really, especially at this late date, you're considering a face covering mandate requiring "people to cover their mouth and nose in situations when they might run into non-household members".

Our time out and about over these last several weeks has been limited, as these circumstances warrant. What we've observed has reinforced why we love this community and chose to retire here – Petersburg's citizens being responsible – showing their care and respect for fellow citizens. Everyone we saw was following the mandates and recommendations – and, in most cases, were going above and beyond those requested!

Petersburg, as you know, has had only one confirmed case of COVID-19. And that person contracted the virus south while traveling. The mandates and recommendations **already** in place have worked!

At this point in time, the Borough should be heavily engaged in discussions of how to begin lifting mandates and requirements – not adding them! Our local businesses (and their employees) need you to institute a plan to avoid further loss. And, you need to trust the citizens of Petersburg to continue to use our common sense!

/s/ *Forrest Cole*

/s/ *Shirley Cole*

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