

Debra Thompson

From: Chet Billi <chetbilli12@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 15, 2020 5:30 PM
To: Assembly
Subject: Enough

Assembly,

I read an article some time ago (I believe it was in the Pilot) about an elderly woman who asked her caretaker something to the effect of 'why people who don't wear masks didn't care about her'. It just broke my heart that someone so benign could so casually vilify her fellow human beings like that. I don't fault her for it; I believe she is a victim of the dogmatic, pseudoscientific ideology being propagated by the Borough.

I hear musings about why the community is so divided. I believe it is because of you. For 8 months you have operated within a narrative in which you are the self-declared omniscient architects of society, and those of us who disagree have been caricatured as malevolent saboteurs. The Borough, our local health bureaucracy, and a handful of your enablers from the general public have driven a wedge through this community by assigning ideological virtue/iniquity to the populace according to our support/opposition to the Borough's interventions.

For example, your daily reminders that those who wear masks do so because they "care about others" is a specious conflation that deceives people like that poor woman into concluding that those who don't wear masks do not care about people. After all of this, whoever runs the Borough's Facebook page has the audacity to issue a call for kindness and unity. Sorry, but that call rings hollow. You demand we earn your "kindness" by unifying not through negotiation and consensus, but through acquiescence and submission to your narrative. Some people are genuinely terrified to leave their homes. The Borough has weaponized this element of our community against the rest of us who wish to continue going about our lives as normal humans, free of your interjections. The Borough, both directly and through the messaging it amplifies, has routinely denounced us as ignorant, uncaring, selfish, and otherwise morally degenerate. These denunciations are fundamentally anti-human.

I am not writing to change your minds. We already know what you're going to do, so spare us the "deliberating public servant" facade. This Assembly has denigrated itself to nothing more than a rubber stamp for local bureaucrats cosplaying as the aforementioned social architects. I suspect these mandates will pass by at least 5-2, maybe 6-1 with sufficient arm twisting. I would like to extend my gratitude to the Mayor for his consistent defense of and advocacy on behalf of the majority of the community. It is not easy to stand alone, and we are very appreciative of your tenacity Mr. Jensen.

What are we to do when you won't listen to us? You have confined yourselves within an ideological echo chamber, completely unreachable to those of us who do not share your axioms. You are condescending to and dismissive of every voice of concern and opposition. This is not a representative government. I emphatically reject the premise that you get to set the preconditions for our daily participation in life, regardless of your perceived justification for doing so. This community is not a canvas for you to paint your virtue on. I will disregard these mandates. This is pathological, and I will not be participating.

-Chet Billi