

Debra Thompson

From: Hillary Hunter <hillary@petersburgwave.org>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 3:31 PM
To: Assembly
Subject: Mandate 7

Hi,

I'm disappointed to hear that there is pushback on Mandate #7. From what I understand people are nervous because it gives local authorities the right to determine that someone has to be moved to quarantine. I also am guessing that this is so that people who are mentally ill and unable to consent due to intoxication can still be moved to quarantine and it is not to be used for people who are healthy and able to make their own decisions. My only suggestion to get this passed is to clarify that section in the mandate if possible.

If it's not possible then still pass it. We have done nothing to be in compliance with the state's mandate #14 where it says that we are required to provide a safe place for people who are housing insecure to quarantine and isolate. I work with people who are directly impacted by how unprepared we are in Petersburg to assist the housing insecure and it puts people in harm's way. By not supporting this populace we are doing the rest of our community and them a disservice. They will not be able to keep the town safe from the spread of covid-19 if they have to seek ways to wash their hands in public spaces, get food from public places, go to the bathroom outside, camp in public spaces, or seek a friend's help to not get hypothermia or worse, if they are positive and ill and need shelter. This puts them at elevated risk of death and those they come in contact with at elevated risk of contracting it. Not having a solution to this is reckless. People can not just manifest a place to quarantine out of thin air if they do not already have it. Also, once again, we are not in compliance with State Mandate #14 if we do not pass this.

Secondly, the way I read this in order for us to get state financial assistance for this it has to be a mandate so while understandably many locals are tired of mandates, this has to be a mandate. In order for funding for this to not come directly out of locals pockets, it must be a mandate. We need the state funds.

Lastly, the hospital already has some housing secured for its workers to quarantine in but I understand that this is to handle overflow. I live with hospital workers and was tested for a while back for covid-19. This put me in the predicament of trying to find a place that I could quarantine away from them while being able to work from home. I had to rely on the generosity of family friends to make this possible while I awaited test results. Many do not have the luck of knowing an empty place that they can go. It adds a great deal of stress to an already stressful time, worrying that you may harm people that you care deeply for who may also spread it to some of the most vulnerable populations. It's a different side of the same coin but my point is that hospital workers are already under an extreme amount of stress right now and they deserve to feel supported by their community by knowing that if they feel that their families are being put at risk, they have somewhere to go without financial burden.

Signed as a private citizen,
Hillary Hunter