

Debra Thompson

From: Dana Thynes <danathynes@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 7:19 PM
To: Assembly
Subject: The Emergency Ordinance, and Why It Should Not Be Passed As Written

The Emergency Ordinance, and Why It Should Not Be Passed As Written

When the shutdown first began, I was not concerned with fears of the virus so much as I was concerned for our liberties as citizens. The longer this drags on, the more justified my fears seem.

The proposed amendments to the Emergency Ordinance are too far-reaching. They would allow the "Incident Commander" or similar appointee the ability to declare an emergency when HE/SHE SEES FIT. No public input. Just "from on high."

Any proclamations passed during this time would have the force of law, and would SUPERCEDE existing law! ...Like the Second Amendment in the Bill of Rights? (And what does "without limitation" mean?)

It's not specific! There is nothing in the amendment as written that would prevent the Borough Manager, Incident Commander, or an appointee from deciding to collect all firearms, for example. Or remove children to foster care. Or limit communications!

The danger is that the checks & balances, the safeguards, are only as good as the people who hold the positions of assembly member, borough manager, public health director, and etc.

Right now, I believe we've got a kind group of well-meaning people holding office. That's not good enough, not for statutory law. We need laws that will curb potential future power abusers.

We need PUBLIC DISCOURSE, not mandates from on high.

I suggest two volunteer groups, made up of citizens, who would have the power to advise the acting emergency coordinator.

#1: The Incident Commander could not act without input from an Advisory Group of Volunteer Citizens. Not appointed - voluntary! If a tsunamai was about to hit the town in 13 minutes, that would obviously be impractical, but if a new policy is being determined upon that would affect livelihoods, educational opportunities, and family cohesion, there needs to be input from those affected.

#2: There could be a Board of Appeals to which citizens could make their plea when they are hit with a \$2000 fine for daring to keep their business open, or for breaking curfew, etc. One size cannot fit all!

This board should likewise be made up of volunteers, not appointees.

And what about reciprocity? If citizens who fall afoul of the rules-made-law are subject to court hearings and \$2000 fines, let's place similar punishments into the borough code for officials whose heavy-handedness results in harms to life, limb, and property. There's already been some of that loss here in Petersburg.

Concerning our current "pandemic emergency" situation, I'd like to remind you all that it was DEATH RATE that was supposed to be the concerning factor with COVID-19. Now it is CASE RATE. Why? Rates of infection do not equal death. Our public health authorities keep moving the goal posts. This is BAIT & SWITCH.

I read every day about the COVID-19 situation. Popular articles, peer-reviewed studies, interviews with experts.

Perhaps the most comprehensive article I have read, with multiple links to peer-reviewed literature, is by J.B. Handley at his blog,

<https://jbhandleyblog.com/home/lockdownlunacy>

(I see that he has added an update at the top of this page.)

The article is very long, with the development of each "Fact" he discusses as long as an article in itself.

Here are the relevant points he discusses:

Fact #1: The Infection Fatality Rate for COVID-19 is somewhere between 0.07-0.20%, in line with seasonal flu

Fact #2: The risk of dying from COVID-19 is much higher than the average IFR (Infection Fatality Rate) for older people and those with co-morbidities, and much lower than the average IFR for younger healthy people, and nearing zero for children

Fact #3: People infected with COVID-19 who are asymptomatic (which is most people) do NOT spread COVID-19

Fact #4: Emerging science shows no spread of COVID-19 in the community (shopping, restaurants, barbers, etc.)

Fact #5: Published science shows COVID-19 is NOT spread outdoors

Fact #6: Science shows masks are ineffective to halt the spread of COVID-19, and The WHO recommends they should only be worn by healthy people if treating or living with someone with a COVID-19 infection

Fact #7: There's no science to support the magic of a six-foot barrier

Fact #8: The idea of locking down an entire society had never been done and has no supportable science, only theoretical modeling

Fact #9: The epidemic models of COVID-19 have been disastrously wrong, and both the people and the practice of modeling has a terrible history

Fact #10: The data shows that lockdowns have NOT had an impact on the course of the disease.

Fact #11: Florida locked down late, opened early, and is doing fine, despite predictions of doom

Fact #12: New York's above average death rate appears to be driven by a fatal policy error combined with aggressive intubations.

Fact #13: Public health officials and disease epidemiologists do NOT consider the other negative societal consequences of lockdowns

Fact #14: There is a predictive model for the viral arc of COVID-19, it's called Farr's Law, and it was discovered over 100 years ago

Fact #15: The lockdowns will cause more death and destruction than COVID-19 ever did

Fact #16: All these phased re-openings are utter nonsense with no science to support them, but they will all be declared a success

All of these "FACTS" are well-supported by the author, JB Handley. That link again:

<https://jbhandleyblog.com/home/lockdownlunacy>

Thanks for your attention to this, and the giving of your time to read my letter.

Dana Thynes