

Debra Thompson

To: Assembly
Subject: FW: additional thoughts

From: Donna Marsh <dwmars430@msn.com>
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2020 4:18 PM
To: Emergency Operations Center <eoc@petersburgak.gov>
Subject: additional thoughts

Hello, Karl,

Please find included here a copy of my letter to the Assembly regarding the proposed mandated face coverings which I emailed to them very early this morning. Perhaps you also got a copy, but if not, I've included it here as well.

However, after listening to the broadcast during the noon hour today, I want to include some additional thoughts.

1. In order to get the assembly to pass this proposal, please do NOT use the premise that "if you care for others, you'll wear a mask." Seriously? How about the untold hours of volunteering done before, during and after this pandemic passes that hundreds of Petersburg residents have done, are doing, and will continue to do, most of it quiet and unsung, that have NOTHING to do with this current situation. That premise is faulty, full of holes and absurd.
2. The proposal says that this will be in effect until May 5, 2020, at which point its necessity will be reassessed. If this were really intended to be only for 2 weeks, please consider the "real" reason for it: instilling fear, strengthening government interference, a "we have to do something to show we're doing something;" but not for virus containment. In light of what other states and cities throughout the US are doing in tightening rules, this would further place governmental restraints on people going about their lives in our own community. It would be the equivalent of going on a diet, to flatten the curve, so to speak (and pardon the pun), for only 2 weeks, then reassessing the situation to see if that 2-week diet really worked! No, I believe if this passes, it will be many months, at the earliest, before the powers that be consider it "safe" to be in public spaces without a face covering.
3. The argument that we may be carriers of the virus who then might shed it to others is valid to a point. That point ends when someone else's nose begins. For those in our community most - and more - vulnerable to this contagion, they, too, have a responsibility to live their lives accordingly to protect themselves as they see fit. That might mean that they stay home, they shelter in place to a degree that they have no outside contact with potential carriers. This is not a one-way street.
4. Lastly, what I heard from the different people on the program today was that the assembly vote tonight is merely a formality - that this is a done deal. Last week's program included the fact that the assembly is a representative body that was elected by the people. If you have 51% of the voters in favor of a measure, individual, etc., this does not mean that the other 49% of voter opinion should be discounted.

This is a tough situation for you and our entire town. As you can determine here and in my formal letter, I have strong feelings regarding this. The biggest mistake in the handling of pandemic will be the misuse of governmental authority.

Sincerely,
Donna Marsh