

## Debra Thompson

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**From:** Todd Hampton <thampton@hammerandwikan.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 1, 2021 9:24 AM  
**To:** Assembly  
**Subject:** Borough Mandate for Face Coverings

Good day everyone! I feel it necessary to go on record and insist the borough's mandate for the wearing of masks be lifted. As an employer in an essential business, it becomes increasingly difficult to maintain necessary staffing expected to continue providing to the community. What does this mean? This means I have employees who are frequently ill and absent because of having to wear a mask 40 hours a week.

### SCIENCE:

Science can not be used as a fall back for mandating the wearing of a mask. Masks don't protect anyone from influenza so how is it going to protect against a more aggressive strand like COVID-19? The only mask proven to be effective in protecting personnel from COVID-19 is the N5 Masks. PRICE CHECK... 4 will cost you \$50.00 Who's budget is going to provide the Petersburg community with N5 masks?

### POLITICS:

Last time I checked, we live in a democracy where people are accustomed to the right to choose. I've watched the news over the past year so I'm not oblivious to the magnitude of what's going on in the world. On the same token, the hype about "*EVERYONE SHOULD WEAR A MASK,*" is political opinion. Though acknowledged by the World Health Organization as being ***used as part of a comprehensive strategy of measures to suppress transmission and save lives,*** they also recognize ***the use of a mask alone is not sufficient to provide an adequate level of protection against COVID-19.*** Let's be real, COVID-19 is a scary deal, as is cancer. But did the media report anything in 2020 about the almost 600,000 lives lost to cancer in the U.S. between February 1, 2020 and January 2, 2021? Or, was there any reporting on the ***over*** 600,000 deaths due to heart disease in the same time period? I think not! My point is, there are other conditions equally scary out there causing illness and death in the world but aren't being, needlessly, publicized, causing panic and hysteria. (And ***needlessly publicized*** should not be mistaken for educating the public on safety) I think the Petersburg community, as a whole, has shown their hearts are in the right place and have already established a ***comprehensive strategy of measures to suppress transmission*** of COVID-19 without needing a political opinion imposed upon them.

There are always going to be arguments for and against in any situation. Was COVID-19 taken for granted and downplayed in its incubation stage? Absolutely! On the same token, we also don't have any data showing the results would have been any different. Leaders on every level need to stay forever objective and keep properly informed to effectively conduct themselves in their positions. At the risk of plagiarizing two speeches of an historic figure, *in government of the people, by the people, and for the people, we can not allow ourselves to be a house divided against itself.* NO, we are not talking about abolishing slavery, but, we are still at a similar impasse; this government can not endure, permanently half mask and half mask free. I submit, since there is no FEDERAL or STATE law governing a mandate for wearing a mask, the local mandate for wearing a mask should be null and void.

Thank you in advance for your attention!

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