

Debra Thompson

From: Barry Bracken <bbsea@gci.net>
Sent: Friday, February 5, 2021 4:02 PM
To: Assembly
Cc: Karl Hagerman; Stephen Giesbrecht
Subject: Public Health Mandate #8

To: Assembly Members, Borough of Petersburg

From: Barry Bracken
705 Sandy Beach Road

Re: Petersburg's Mask Mandate

I'm writing to comment on Agenda Item 15. New Business, C. Termination of Public Health Mandate #8, Face Coverings.

In my opinion and the opinion of many others, Petersburg has collectively done a fantastic job of controlling the COVID-19 pandemic in our community. Now is not the time to remove or modify mandates that have been a big part of this success.

As you consider whether or not to ease or remove Mandate #8, you might want to ask yourselves these questions:

1. Who in our community is hurt by keeping the mandate in place? I would say no one is hurt because children and those with medical conditions are exempt. Also, because the mandate is not being strictly enforced, anyone who refuses to comply is not being penalized under the current mandate.
2. Who in our community benefits from keeping the mandate in place? I would say that the entire community benefits. As new variants of SARS-COV-2 are circulating it is important not to let our guard down. Also, until it is determined that vaccinated people are not capable of spreading the virus, we should continue to wear masks to protect others. Petersburg will require a much higher percentage of the population being vaccinated before coming anywhere near reaching herd immunity. And, I really think the decision of when that level is reached, and we can relax a bit, should be medical, not political. The Assembly and Borough staff should continue to work closely with PMC staff and follow their advice in making this determination. Another benefit of keeping the mandate in place is that businesses that wish to maintain a strict mask requirement to protect their employees and customers may do so more easily.

We're getting there, folks. There is a lot of hope and better news these days, so stay the course and let's all get through this together - Safely. Please keep public Health Mandate #8 in place.

Thank you.

Sent from my iPad