

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Mandatory Mask By-law

From: Tobi Bos

Sent: Wednesday, July 15, 2020 8:56 AM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca; Johnson, Brenda; DL - Council Only

Subject: Mandatory Mask By-law

Good day... I have attached the "Enforcement of a By-Law" from the Ontario.ca website. I am hoping you get the opportunity to go through it and answer each one of the questions. Navigating the legal complexities of passing a by-law is only the first step. In practice, a by-law will have little value unless your municipality has the determination and the means to enforce it. Before a by-law is passed, careful consideration of the by-law – including its intended purpose and outcome – may be helpful.

1. **How will the by-law affect the community?** I can guarantee you it will cause an increase in division in the community. If 50% (or more, by the number of letters you are receiving against this mandate) of your citizens are against something, how do you figure that will play out when you enforce them to do it?
2. **Will it impose restrictions or hardships on particular areas or groups of people?** For those with hearing impairments, anxiety, claustrophobia, facial burns or severe acne, speech impediments, asthma, lung illnesses, financial hardships, and PTSD because of face coverings. You will now have imposed a mandate that will exacerbate their disability and put them at a disadvantage in society.
3. **Will public reaction be favourable? If not, how will council respond?** Again, as you have said yourselves, 50% of your citizens are not *for* this by-law being mandated. Already name calling abounds. You will be feeding the fire by mandating this and removing the choice. How are you going to respond to this? I look forward to hearing your response.
4. **What will it cost to administer the by-law?** Financially? I am assuming the city of Hamilton of will be providing safe and suitable masks to the business requiring them so that we know they are clean and not transferring this deadly virus from place to place. There are many who simply cannot afford the extra expense of purchasing masks... disposable masks in a non sterile environment have to be changed every hour (because of bacterial shedding buildup) in order for them to be effective. (Surgeons in a sterile environment can wear them for two hours before changing them). Cloth masks need to be washed after each use, (mould will develop in the moist environment of the mask in 24 hours) so people, will be needing a number of them. (I have a husband and four kids... if we each need three masks, at five dollars each, that is a cost of \$90 for us) Or are you expecting the already struggling stores, churches, libraries, swimming pools etc. etc. to be providing them for their customer's? So another expense for them in addition to the notices and staff required to enforce this by-law. Since this virus is so dangerous, I am assuming bio-hazardous waste containers will be placed at a number of locations outside the places requiring face masks. (Perhaps you have noticed as well, the amount of used face masks disposed of in parking lots is astounding and quite disgusting, so much more virus spreading!). In the local community, we are seeing people who will no longer be shopping locally and will be ordering from amazon or other online shopping institutions instead, another hit to local small businesses.
5. **Can existing staff be expected to handle the additional responsibilities, or will more staff be required?** How will you respond when the stores who already can't keep employees (because they don't want to wear a mask for their eight hour shift) and are now short staffed, enforce something

many of them don't even want or can't do, themselves. (I overheard two employees at Winners yesterday say they were going to stop working and go back on CERB so they wouldn't have to deal with this).

6. ***Is the municipality prepared to enforce the by-law and enforce it consistently?*** First off, since the bylaw will likely include specific exemptions for those who cannot wear a mask from a medical perspective, as it should from a discrimination standpoint. How are you going to enforce it when 50% of your voters all of a sudden have a medical exemption? Secondly when those people not wearing masks are confronted by the mask vigilantes and disputes arise, do you have the officers to diffuse the situation or is that another task the business owners are going to have to accrue?

This is separate from the requirements you will need to fulfill in order to pass this by-law:

Please do not compare this by-law with passing of real, proven, life saving laws such as seat belt wearing, and smoking laws. We know those laws are life saving. The mandating of masks is in no way life saving... in fact when not used and worn properly they can be quite dangerous. Some counties, the ones who have been wearing masks for years and are educated in wearing them, have shown a decrease in cases and deaths when masks were worn at the outset of this virus. However the countries and areas that have implemented them later, without educating people have seen an increase in cases and deaths. (See Ecuador, UAE, California). If you need to see charts and graphs showing this data I would be more than willing to pass it along. I would also love to see the data showing that they do work as I have yet to find any.

Regarding Worship:

You have also mentioned that did not understand the reason why people were upset and felt they, as worshipers, they were being persecuted. 2 Corinthians 3:18

“So all of us who have had that veil (mask) removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image”. Masks hide our identity as persons made in God's image. We also speak through our faces, by which we communicate, dialogue and build up friendships and community. So, we should think and reflect before we cover our faces. After all, masking is often done for nefarious purposes. Ponder your reaction – outside of the present context - if someone were to walk into your house wearing a mask. People hide their own face when they want to do evil, and they hide the faces of those to whom they may wish to do evil. And whatever one thinks of the death penalty – whether justified in some cases – we also cover the faces of the condemned.

Regarding the Environment:

When speaking with someone who works for a car manufacturing plant in southern Ontario, with 8,000 employees, all of whom are now bound to mask up. Many go through 8-12 or more disposable masks in a day. Even at a low estimate, that's about 64,000 saliva-and-mucous covered masks dumped in landfills *per diem*, 448,000 per week, which is 5,376,000 from now until the proposed “end date” of this by-law. That's from *one* factory. And for those places that burn their garbage, what will those toxic clouds contain, as they drift over towns and cities? Whatever happened to the message to limit waste and protect the environment?

Thank you to those who took the time to read through this, I know it was long. I appreciate it. I believe as councillors of this city you want to do the best to take care of your citizens. Thank you for that. Please think long and hard of the consequences of passing this by-law. Just because surrounding regions have done it is not a good reason. Show us that you value your citizens enough to put them first. Please consider educating instead of mandating. Physical distancing and hand washing have emptied our hospitals of Covid patients as well as lowered our cases and deaths. Do we really want to add another unknown variable to this equation that has already shown very good results?

Thank you for your time, With all respect.

Tobi Bos