

Pilon, Janet

Subject: mask by-law

From: Linds S

Sent: Wednesday, July 15, 2020 9:15 AM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Cc: DL - Council Only; Pauls, Esther

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Good morning, last week I was concerned when I read that the city of hamilton is looking at making masks mandatory. I'm concerned as a member of Hamilton that the consequences of this have not been well thought out.

My primary reaction was on what this will mean for schools in September. I have a child who has been in speech therapy since she was 3, she turns 7 this year. She has worked so hard to overcome this thanks to the help of Lear Communications. The idea of her wearing a mask is devastating, how will people be able to understand her? When people cannot read the face/lips a person with a speech impediment will be greatly compromised. This bylaw will force us as parents to start homeschooling, simply the psychological damage to her being in a mask is terrifying. She is right now a healthy 7 year old with confidence, if she is in an environment where she is not being understood this can shatter that. I have 5 children, and the impact of kids wearing masks is a huge concern.

I have also noticed the amount of masks laying on the ground in Hamilton, this is disgusting and should be a concern. Cotton masks have been scientifically proven to cause bacterial throat infections if not cleaned properly every day. I could go on, however these are my primary concerns.

Hamilton has done so well with COVID and I believe that is due to the leadership we have. Please continue to look out for the well being of your citizens and not make a rash decision that will cause serious consequences.

Thank you for reading this,

Lindsey Sieders