Pilon, Janet

Subject: Medical Conditions and Face Masks, HSR issues

From: Darren Mullin

Sent: July 21, 2020 2:18 PM

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Good Afternoon,

I am e-mailing with deep concerns with regards to the new Mandatory Mask By-Law that was put in place as of July 20, 2020.

I am an Individual who suffers from severe Anxiety and Mental Health and in addition, I feel very nauseous and sick when wearing a mask. Therefore, due to this, I am unable to wear one.

The By-Law that was recently put into place has put an enormous amount of strain and stress on my life and many others who have disabilities, medical conditions and mental health conditions.

I understand that the By-Law States that an individual who has a condition that is preventing them from wearing a mask has to verbally declare that they have a medical condition and be exempt from the requirement. When entering a business or when using public transit.

Unfortunately, this has not been the case on the HSR as I myself have experienced an HSR Operator demanding an explanation and proof of my medical condition. This has put a great deal of stress on me and I have not been able to sleep properly and the stress is making me ill.

In addition, there are reports and videos surfacing on Social Media of Citizens declaring they have a Medical Condition at a Business and the Citizen ends up in a confrontation with Staff over the Mask issue.

The above is completely un-acceptable, it has put everyone against each other and poses serious a risk to the safety of everyone involved. No one should have to be in a position where they have to now live in fear and have their right to confidentiality over their medical conditions be compromised.

I am urging the Mayor and Council to please re-consider the Masking By-Law and Rescind it as soon as possible. I understand the risks of the COVID-19, however this By-Law has caused a great deal of unnecessary hardship and divide amongst the community. Lets make Hamilton a welcoming place.

Thank you and I look forward to a response.

Kind Regards, Darren Mullin