

Pilon, Janet

Subject: PLEASE DO NOT MAKE WEARING OF MASKS MANDATORY IN HAMILTON!!

From: Susan McClung

Sent: Thursday, July 16, 2020 10:16 PM

To: Office of the Mayor

Cc: Wilson, Maureen; Farr, Jason; Nann, Nrinder; Merulla, Sam; Collins, Chad; Jackson, Tom; Pauls, Esther; Ward 8 Office; Clark, Brad; Pearson, Maria; Johnson, Brenda; Ferguson, Lloyd; VanderBeek, Arlene; Whitehead, Terry; Partridge, Judi; clerk@hamilton.ca

Subject: PLEASE DO NOT MAKE WEARING OF MASKS MANDATORY IN HAMILTON!!

Wouldn't it be nice if we could educate the citizens of Hamilton and not keep inducing FEAR? Mandating wearing of masks just induces more FEAR. "Why are we forced to wear a mask? This must be serious because even the Government has changed their mind, so I better do it". If you want to wear a mask, then go right ahead, but people should have a CHOICE. Our civil liberties are being taken away. A science based educational video like this might reduce the FEAR. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DGcV8_CXW88. Maybe this MD is lying. I don't know, but I do know that this is what my common sense grandmother would have said. She wasn't a doctor.

The scientific evidence is overwhelming that mask wearing is not effective but MAYBE slightly helpful. The many negative impacts associated with mask wearing far outweigh what is being recommended to you for your decision making. A previous email has already been sent with tonnes of science based references that are quoted by the Ontario Civil Liberties Association. Maybe that should be considered more. There are many medical professionals who have scientific facts and data on the "pandemic"; Rancourt, Erickson, Victory, Bush, Massihi, Gupta, Kaufman, Levitt, Jensen, Bendavid, Roizen, Preston. Maybe their expert advice should be taken more into account for your policy decision. This is a slippery slope that we are on and trust in our politicians' decisions based on more evidence is paramount to reduce the FEAR.

I'm advocating for the hearing impaired who rely on one's face and mouth to communicate. I'm advocating for the people who have experienced a violent act, and can't bear to have something over their mouth. I'm advocating for the people who can't breathe through their nose normally if their mouth is covered, and now with a mask, breathing becomes harder. I'm advocating for the general labourers who because of the nature of their job, will be getting their masks filthy because they want to go into an establishment. I'm advocating for the person who feels shame and bullied because they are not wearing a mask, because they feel they know what is best for themselves. I wonder about people with skin issues and how this impacts them.

This FEAR creates uncertainty and some people wear masks outside while exercising. They are confused of what to do, so they think this is necessary too. They don't want to be shamed either, even outside, whether they are exercising or not. I'm pretty sure that breathing in your own carbon dioxide can't be good for you. It probably leads to headaches and dizziness and other health issues. I'm pretty sure wearing a mask compromises your natural immune system. I'm pretty sure that your body is normally working hard to expel ALL the viruses and bacteria floating around without a mask on, and now with a mask, molecules will be sticking to the mask and one will have longer exposure to a potential sickness. I saw a guy sneeze the other day as he whipped his mask off quickly; a natural reaction. Sneezed into his arm, put his mask back on, carried out good hand hygiene and went on his way. Are we seriously supposed to sneeze into our masks? That doesn't sound logical or common sense at all. Shouldn't we be wearing eye protection too if we are following the logic of "the sprayed droplets"?

My observation has been that people tend to not social distance when they have masks on. They sure do when one is not wearing a mask. FEAR based I guess. They become complacent with masks on. They are always adjusting their mask and touching their face with their hands. Are we not supposed to be touching our

face? The general public are not trained health care workers. People are using the same mask over and over again. They are throwing it in the car in the dirty cup holder or whatever. To me that is completely defeating the purpose. Masks increase risk to the healthy wearer. People think they should wear them because they are not better informed or they are just plain SCARED. Should we not be concerned about the increase in waste, discarded ones on the ground, and possible contamination to garbage collectors? Masks are for the ill. Identify the people who are at risk the most and protect them. We don't all have to do it. It defies common sense and logic. This policy fails to take into account the health and psychological impact of everyone else. Please concentrate on our long-term facilities. People are SCARED to go to the hospitals for other underlying health issues. COVID-19 related backlashes are happening and FEAR is rampant.

I understand 44 people have died from COVID-19 in Hamilton in the past four months. Our population is 767,000. 44 divided by 767,000. Minute. Please understand the common sense. Please stop the FEAR. Maybe these poor souls were from long-term facilities. Maybe they had other comorbidities; diabetes, heart disease, kidney failure, terminal cancer, car accident. Did they die FROM COVID-19 or WITH COVID-19? These are serious issues that are being raised in the community. Maybe we need to educate the public on what is going on and show transparency. Parents probably need this to feel more comfortable with getting their children back to school. Maybe there should be few restrictions, including masks. Teach our children the basics and take FEAR out of the equation. Hamilton has a chance to be a leader for all the surrounding communities! Maybe take a stance that doesn't give into political pressure and swayed by public opinion. This might not be the right time in terms of cases, for mandatory masks in the summer, out of flu season, especially when many medical professionals question whether masks are effective. Maybe let people do what they feel is best for themselves and for their families. This might reduce the FEAR and give citizens control back of their lives. Confidence is needed. There are hundreds of qualified individuals coming forward and giving us the updated scientific facts and data of what is really going on with this "pandemic". Please give us credit for our critical thinking and our questioning.

Thank you.
Susan McClung.