

Pilon, Janet

Subject: For the Hamilton Council

From: Trish S

Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 8:28 AM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

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Hamilton City Council,

Just wondering what the end goal is in regard to the mandatory mask by-law?

Initially we were told the goal was the “flatten the curve”, which we as a country have done since May (<https://www.covid-19canada.com> – scroll down to near the bottom to see the graph). So now what?

I read in the by-law that, as more business open you believe that,

“physical distancing is difficult to maintain in enclosed public spaces and there exists a pressing need for establishments to implement appropriate measures and regulations to better prevent the spread of COVID-19 and protect the health, safety and well-being of the residents of the city of Hamilton within enclosed public spaces;”,

yet this wasn't an issue during the height of the virus, so what makes it different now? Yes, I realize that more establishments are open and Yes, I realize some establishments no longer seem to restrict the number of customers, but most still do, and shouldn't it then be up to the establishment to decide what “appropriate measures and regulations” work best for them as each situation is different?

I realize that you don't want to be accused of not doing enough in light of this novel virus, and that you want to “protect the health, safety and well-being of the residents of the city of Hamilton” but my observation of this by-law has proven quite the opposite. When masks were optional, people still felt safe, and were friendly and calm, however now I find people fearful, angry and on edge.

I would like you to reconsider the by-law, perhaps once again stating to wear it when social distancing is difficult and leave it up to the establishments / individuals on whether or not a mask is appropriate.

Considering that we had 14 active cases as of July 20 and 46 as of Aug 17 (as per <https://www.hamilton.ca/coronavirus/status-cases-in-hamilton>), it appears that the mask order is not diminishing infections. On a positive note, hospitalizations have gone down and both those numbers in a population of 535,000 are still extremely low and give no reason for anyone to fear. Yet the mask seems to be a visual reminder to do exactly that.

Below please find a Facebook post from Jake Cheechov. While it is from an American perspective, I feel it is still worth reading and considering.

I recognize that your job is not an easy one in this unsettling time, and our family is praying for you in the decisions you make.

Trish Smink – Ward 7

[Jake Cheechov](#) Aug 13, 2020

I have a question... What is the end game with COVID19 Anyone? Anyone???

What is the magic formula that is going to allow us to sound the "all clear"? Is it zero cases? For a while, the goal was to simply "flatten the curve," but now that we are disconnecting utilities for gatherings in California, setting up check points in New York, and recommending goggles (what's next?), it seems as if there is, in fact, no end game. And, truthfully, the only way that we will see numbers drop is if we cease testing and stop reporting. Bear in mind that hundreds of thousands have shown up to be tested, registered, left due to long waits, and still come up positive when they received their results.

Is it a vaccine???

It took 25 years for a chicken pox vaccine to be developed. The smallpox inoculation was discovered in 1776 and the last known natural case was in 1977. We have a flu vaccine that is only 40 to 60% effective (that's generous- the last two years it was more like 20-25%), less than half of the US population chooses to get one, and roughly 20,000 Americans still die annually due to flu or flu complications.

Oh, you'll mandate it in order to attend school, travel to some foreign countries, etc.? We already have a growing number of vaccine researchers refusing proven, tested, well-known vaccines that have been administered for decades! Do you really believe the majority of people will flock to get a fast-tracked vaccine, whose long-term side effects and overall efficacy rates are anyone's best guess? How long are we going to cancel? Postpone? Reconsider?

Now we are advised against in-person school until second quarter? What if October's numbers are the same as August's? Then what?

Move football to spring? What if next March is worse than this March?

When do we decide quality of life outweighs risk? (highlight is mine)

We understand this virus can be deadly for SOME, but so are shellfish, peanut butter, and bee stings. We take risks every day without a second thought.

We know driving a car can be dangerous, but we don't leave it parked in the garage for months on end. We know the dangers of smoking, drinking, and eating fried foods, but we do it, none-the-less. We speed on highways, some idiots still don't buckle their seatbelts, we take medications more than "as directed," and a good number of individuals don't think twice about unprotected sex.

Is hugging Grandma really more dangerous than rush hour on the freeway? Is going to a bar with friends more risky than four day old gas station sushi? Or operating a chainsaw? How about a lawn mower?

When and how did we so quickly lose our free will?

I want a waiver that says, "I understand the risks, but I choose a life with hugs, smiles, college athletics, the state fair, concerts, and school dances."

I understand that there is a minuscule possibility I could die but, more probable, I will end up feeling like junk for a few days.

I understand I could possibly pass this virus onto someone else, but I can pass ANY virus onto someone else at any time until the end of time. And the possibility of them dying from it is ALWAYS there... because death happens and all our days are numbered.

Are we busy living or busy dying?

It's hard to tell these days.