Name: Michaela DeCastro
Address: 2510 Laurel Ave
Rapid City, SD 57701
Meeting: City Council
Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item
Agenda Item: CC042720-01

Comment:

My name is Michaela DeCastro and I have been happily employed by a restaurant in town since it’s opening. The potential plan to reopening non-essential businesses, while following strict (and I believe necessary) restrictions, will be detrimental to many employees across most service industry jobs. With limited capacity, staff will not be able to survive via our regular sources of income until this pandemic further passes. Two weeks prior to closing, I witnessed several staff worry and struggle to feed their kids due to the limited capacity and fear keeping people home. The added stresses of homeschooling further compounds these issues. Curb-side service at restaurants run primarily by salaries management, has been spectacular and I believe will continue to thrive if people are able to stay home and financially sound, for the time being. We simply do not have the testing to show what we are truly battling & we will now be at high risk.
Name: m c bauder
Address: 8020 alfalfa ct
rc sd 57702
Meeting: City Council
Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item
Agenda Item: re-opening
Comment:

please do not re-open now. the small businesses cant do the 6 foot distancing, so the big boys will get business...who does that really help? and the folks working these jobs are getting little pay usually. is there testing of employees before and after shift? how about folks entering? no? then you dont know who is a carrier and who isnt. i believe using common sense along with guidelines (which are just that GUIDELINES) is what needs to happen. i do realize how agonizing these decisions are but that doesnt mean doing the hard thing isnt the right thing.
Name: Si Issler
Address: 701 Pluma Dr.
Rapid City, SD 57702
Meeting: City Council
Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item
Agenda Item: Maintain the ordinance
Comment:
To the Mayor and Councilmembers,
Thank you for hearing my comments.

At the beginning of this pandemic, everyone looked to and heralded the nurses, doctors, therapists, and epidemiologists who were actively treating and studying this virus.

Just a couple months into this, people are starting to get impatient, letting the pendulum swing the other way. Impatient people and certain business owners are finding anyone who will say this isn't as big a deal as it seems, that herd immunity will happen faster if we get back to "normal."

People are just starting to develop habits that will slow and stop the spread of this virus. If that stops now, we risk numerous hospitalizations and deaths.

Please keep the ordinance the way it is and encourage people to seek out credible advice and research from peer reviewed sources and experts in the field of epidemiology and infectious disease.

Thank you,
Si Issler, RN
HVU/COVID unit
Monument Health
Name: Nicolette Brittany Roccaro
Address: 2820 Lanark Rd
Rapid City, SD 57702
Meeting: City Council
Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item
Agenda Item: Covid 19 quarantine
Comment:
Please re open Rapid City. Our mental health is dependent on lifting the quarantine. I am also very concerned about our most vulnerable population- our city's children. I am concerned that many children may be trapped in abusive situations and have to live in their horrors every day without a break. Domestic violence, abuse, and filicide are a huge concern for me. For the safety of our citizens, please re open Rapid City. Thank you.
Afternoon,

I am a waitress and bartender at a restaurant in Rapid City. I would like to address my concerns over these businesses reopening. My bosses have sent all the employees a letter stating if this passes we will be opening back up on May 4th. All the staff is being called back to work. Due to the restriction of only 1 person per 125 sq ft, we can have 10 customers in our building at a time. The building's design does not allow for very much setting in order to comply with 6ft of space all around a table. The letter we received is telling us to decide if we are returning to work or if we are voluntarily quitting. There is no other option. Due to school closures and childcare facilities closed it is putting a lot of pressure on families with kids to have to return to work for maybe a few hours at the most and risk their health. I feel it is unfair to put us in a situation that makes us choose if we want to work or be unemployed.
The information we are learning about COVID-19 keeps changing, just yesterday the CDC released new symptoms for Corona Virus. Recently has been scientifically documented that the virus is most contagious 2-7 days BEFORE symptoms first appear. Restaurants offering to take staff temps is not effective. Any financial benefit we temporarily gain will likely be minute compared to the devastation wreaked by a potential corona virus outbreak. We do not have the testing necessary to adequately keep people safe and prevent the spread of this virus, nor the resources to battle an outbreak adequately.

What we do have is the ability to learn from other places that have gone through outbreaks and try to make educated, informed decisions and avoid the mistakes. Please look at Japan's northern Island of Hokkaido that reopened to devastating physical and financial consequences and heed warnings of medical professionals.
Name: Mark Stucke
Address: 1716 Rushmore ST
Rapid City, SD 57702
Meeting: City Council
Comment Type: General Public Comment
Agenda Item:
Comment:

My wife owns a small business so we are aware of the economic pain that people and small business owners are experiencing.

With a lack of testing and a projected peak yet in June, I am worried that a reopening of any kind at this point would be fuel to the fire and erase any progress that has been made by those who are social distancing and weathering the business closures.

The extra restrictions are smart but you don't stop doing something while it is working.
Name: Heather Sazama
Address: 3512 Powderhorn Drive, Rapid City, 57702
Meeting: City Council
Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item
Agenda Item: CC042720-01 - Approve Emergency Resolution 2020-034

Comment:

Please do not revise the ordinance. We almost no reliable information as to the prevalence of COVID-19 infections in our state. Testing is inadequate, to say the least. We have avoided becoming a hot spot in large part due to the business closures & social distancing. It defies logic to loosen the restrictions now, when each day proves the restrictions are effective. The virus is not going to stop at the Missouri River. It is not going to stop at the borders of our state when tourist season is in full swing. The answer is not to tell those of us who are diligently staying at home, "If you don't like it, don't go out." That response is, frankly, un-American. As of today's date, more Americans have died from COVID-19 in a month than died in twenty years of conflict in Vietnam. Business will bounce back. know you are facing pressure, but you must do what is right to protect our elders, the medically vulnerable, and the nation as a whole.
Here in South Dakota Governor Noem has warned that 30-70% of South Dakotans could become infected, and thousands here could potentially die; our own friends, neighbors and family members. With the state’s peak in infections not projected until mid-June now is the time to prepare, not to relax restrictions or to put the experts on mute. So while South Dakota remains as one of only eight states in the country to not put in place a statewide lockdown restriction, we do have the choice as a city and as a community to maintain smart policies that will help save lives and slow the spread of this virus. Therefore I wish to remind all of you that the decisions this council makes today and over the next following weeks will impact something more important than anything else. What these decisions are dealing with are human lives, and a premature opening of businesses puts potentially thousands of them at risk.
Name: Sammi Kenzy
Address: 24098 Pine Grove Road
Rapid City
So. Dak.
Meeting: City Council
Comment Type: General Public Comment
Agenda Item: Opening businesses
Comment:

I realize the predicament that the council and the local businesses are in. I am a retired nurse so am fortunate to not have to rely on keeping a business running nor a family to feed. I know first hand what isolation precautions mean along with good hand washing and the wearing of masks and gloves. My biggest concern is what I see and I’m being told by many people, it that its not happening out there!!!

If it’s not happening now what makes you think it will happen when the stores and bars and restaurants open up? We have many out of state cars in the hills already! I think we need another two weeks to continue to watch the curve. There will be many of us too afraid to take the risk yet. I think if we don't hold back, we may all pay for this down the road. In my nursing observations, dead is dead!

Thank you for your time and effort put into this. I made some masks for all of you. Stay safe!
Dear City Council representatives,

I practice as an ICU Nocturnist at Monument Health. The Sars-Cov2 numbers for Pennington County, reflect 2 factors: lack of comprehensive testing/impact of current closure orders and social distancing.

We have 2245 statewide positives with 14130 negatives (13.7% of those tested are now positive, this is up from 3.9% last week). Pennington Co has 12 positive (2.25% positive of those tested). We have still only tested 532 people in our county.

Since comprehensive testing still appears an impossibility, the only tool we have to effectively keep this pandemic at bay (and avoid infected people actively working in the community), is continued social distancing and renewal of the city closure orders.

It is imperative to not give in to a false sense of security at this crucial juncture, and to continue the current closure orders and expectations of continued social distancing.

Sincerely,

Dr Sonja Labrie