

Name: Mary Panerio

Address: 3508 West Main St.

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

Instead of looking out for the health of friends, family and neighbors, too many in Rapid City are choosing to disregard experts' recommendations to wear masks. I've heard countless comments from people who refuse to mask up because they feel wearing one infringes upon their freedom to choose, and they are convinced COVID-19 isn't a big enough threat. There is also a lot of talk about living a life governed by personal responsibility, not mandates.

The issue therein is that too many people aren't behaving as though they are personally responsible for what will happen. By "exercising their freedom," they are effectively taking away the freedom from the countless people in our community who simply cannot risk exposure.

This, in turn, negatively affects the mental well-being of compromised citizens and their families, and it keeps so many from patronizing local businesses.

This is why I urge you to vote in support of a mask mandate..

Name: Scott Dressler

Address: 2308 Hoefer Ave

Rapid City, SD

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask

Comment:

Comments from people that do not live in the City Limits of Rapid City should not be given any time in this meeting. They do not pay taxes here or vote here therefore have no standing in city issues.

I believe that any person who cares about the safety of others should be supportive of masks.

Name: Dale Buse

Address: 1191 Creekside view lane

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Commnet

Agenda Item: Masks

Comment:

Be smart!!! Do not have a mask mandate!! You will open up a can of worms. Such as when do we stop the mandate, when there's 10 cases 20 etc. if people think they need to ware one they should but please don't tell me what I should and shouldn't do!!

Name: Kevin Carroll

Address: 4270 Cliff Drive

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Temporary Mask mandate

Comment:

I urge the Common Council to listen to the pleas from our local Healthcare community and pass a temporary mask mandate for Rapid City. The data showing our daily infection rate at 50% (ten times the 5% guideline for action to be taken) means that thousand of citizens will be sickened and hundreds more, particularly elderly, will die if no action is taken.

Name: Shannon Murdoch-Morris

Address: 24492 Oak Meadows Ct, Keystone, SD 57751

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: mask mandate

Comment:

While understanding the need to protect citizens and acknowledging that there are medical exemptions, there are some things that I think need to be considered. All people need adequate oxygen intake to be healthy, particularly when fighting off an illness or perhaps, a virus... Face coverings inhibit oxygen intake to everyone wearing one. And if it doesn't then it is not very good protection against viruses. Masks worn improperly, bandanas open at top or bottom are letting oxygen in and also viruses, bacteria, and other contaminants. Also there are higher risks from side effects of wearing the masks and in many studies, the difference of contamination are extremely small between mask wearers and non-mask wearers. I just think that there needs to be some more thought and attention paid before putting a mandate in place that could include fines and jail terms.

Name: Kendra Julius

Address: 115 Saint Andrew Street

Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

I fully support the mask mandate being proposed. Science shows that wearing masks, specifically those that are dual layer fabrics or surgical masks, helps to prevent the spread of the virus from those infected with COVID to those uninfected. We do understand from numerous studies that transmission of many viruses takes place prior to the host showing any symptoms, thus only avoiding the public while symptomatic is not effective in reducing transmission rates. The CDC has issued more information that wearing a mask not only protects others if you are infected, but also may protect you if you are exposed to the virus. Part of having the right to use services within a community or society is also the expectation that you will exercise your responsibility to protect others. For example, we have many laws in place that protect general public safety such as the prohibition on consuming alcohol and then driving. A mask mandate is no different.

Name: Matthew Sullivan

Address: 4045 Derby Lane #3, Rapid City, SD, 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: The mask mandate

Comment:

The main transmission path for viral respiratory diseases is long-residence-time aerosol particles which are too fine to be blocked, and the minimum-ineffective dose is smaller than one aerosol particle. This is proven science. To say that violating my rights and forcing a mandate on me is for the good of the majority is more than a farce, it's vicious and over-reaching government on the local level that is based in fear. This decision if passed (at its best) is false and based in fear. You do not have the right to force this on me or on anyone. The science I am referencing is based on these and it proves by known professionals that masks do not work:

Jacobs, J. L. et al. (2009)

Cowling, B. et al. (2010)

bin-Reza et al. (2012)

Smith, J.D. et al. (2016)

Offeddu, V. et al.

Radonovich, L.J. et al. (2019)

Long, Y. et al. (2020)

Matthew Sullivan

Name: Phil Jensen

Address: 10215 Pioneer Ave

Rapid City, SD

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Masking

Comment:

Denmark conducted a thorough study on the benefits of masking and found them to be useless when it came to protection from Covid.

The US Marine Corp. did a comprehensive study, in a very controlled environment, with constant monitors and found that masking actually increased the spread of covid!!

It would be ludicrous for the city to issue a mask mandate that has no scientific evidence to support such a move! I, for one, would not obey it!

I recently came down with covid and got on the hydroxichloriquine, zinc, etc. program and within a couple of hours was 90% better.

Covid is not a death sentence....more like a bad flu.

Do not take away our freedom for an illness that has a 99% survival rate.

Sen. Phil Jensen

Name: Jodi Clark

Address: 14740 E valley View Dr Piedmont SD 57769

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: NO on the mask mandate!

Comment:

Vote No on the mask mandate! We do ALL of our shopping in Rapid City and we DO NOT want masks mandated by our local Govt. BOO!!! As elected officials, you KNOW that this is unconstitutional. DO NOT DO IT.

As per our Governor's office most recent release, SD is doing WELL with covid, and the scare tactics ARE NOT WARRANTED, and NEITHER is a Govt mask mandate. The fines are the cherry on the top of this crap cake.

<https://kelo.com/2020/11/16/86641/?fbclid=IwAR2YqniePnV8SBmPsJOQFvbgHo8E5qv5ndvDYGOi-XAadU3IgKL8Zvbw14>

Name: Janice Knutsen

Address: 1518 Forest Drive

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

A mask mandate may limit someone's sense of freedom, but Covid harms people physically, adversely affects families having to care for members who are sick, having to homeschool their children and having to quarantine themselves. Covid is causing our children to lose valuable education time and causing us to lose healthcare workers, space and services all which we so desperately need at this time. Covid is causing people to lose jobs, file bankruptcy and die.

Now is not the time to think about "me" and my personal freedom, because that "me" might just be the asymptomatic super-spreader! Now is the time to think BIG, about the whole, about all of us as a city, a state and a nation. Now is time to fight this disease in every possible way we can, following CDC guidelines formulated by experts not by politicians.

I hope our council can think BIG, be more visionary and impose a mask mandate!

Name: Denise Thompson

Address: 4622 Bellewood Dr, Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Ordinance

Comment:

I do not advocate a cavalier attitude towards the virus. I know some suffer and die. However, many victims are overweight/obese and doctors have said their obesity killed them yet we don't police food intake.

In addition, it is personally unhealthy to wear a mask, breathing our own exhaust, encouraging possible fungus lung infections. Good immunity is developed by daily exposure to normal bacteria and viruses. The general public immunity is becoming compromised by wearing masks.

Kristi Noem's position has been correct. Let those high risk protect themselves and let us all isolate if we are sick. Let us all be encouraged to respect this virus and do what we can do to protect ourselves and others; however, let us not impose harsh penalty on ONE means of POSSIBLE protection.

Name: Steve Clark

Address: 14740 E Valley View

Piedmont, SD 57769

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

Please choose no for the mask mandate

I will go to a different county to shop if it is place.

Choose NO!!

Name: Ashley Julius

Address: 325 Cleveland St

Rapid City, SD

57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Masks

Comment:

Thank you for your time. I am asking for you to please instate a mask mandate in Rapid City. People make their own decisions for their health, but we need guidance and modeling from our leaders. Our baseline going into flu season, the holidays, and winter is extremely concerning. Please help protect our community.

Name: Gloria Whites

Address: 13129 S Creek View Rd

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: mask mandate

Comment:

No thank you. no mandate for wearing a mask in my area of Rapid City SD

Name: Nancy Hilding

Address: We have two houses: 1117 Columbus, Rapid City SD 57701 or 6300 West Elm, Black Hawk, SD 57718. I am registered voter in Meade County

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: No. CC111920-01 – Approve Ordinance 6453, AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE REQUIRING THE WEARING OF FACE COVERINGS IN CERTAIN SITUATIONS TO SLOW THE COMMUNITY SPREAD OF CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

Comment:

I support the Ordinance to require mandatory mask wearing in some indoor spaces in Rapid City . I am concerned that it does not apply to places of worship or generic indoor meeting spaces such conference rooms at Hotels or indoor meeting spaces such as Surbeck Center Ball Room or meeting halls such as VFW, Knights of Columbus, or a Union Hall. It would not apply to libraries not owned by the City.

This idea not requiring masks due to reliance on personal responsibility and respecting individual freedom is ridiculous. We have to wear seat belts, get car insurance, keep drivers licenses, can't drive while drunk, and have working brake lights. We can't smoke inside public building, can't text while driving, must comply with building codes & in some areas obey zoning. There are all sorts of restrictions on "free choice" for the sake of protecting people from each other.

Name: Zsuzsanna McCauley

Address: 3703 Western Ave

Rapid City

57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask ordinance

Comment:

I am an immigrant from a former socialist country and I am against the mask ordinance.

I have been living in RC SD for over 17 years now, I am proud of what this country is about. When the gov't forcing people to do something for the – greater good – is a slippery slope for overreach. The purpose of the council is to upheld the constitution, and the freedom this country has. Don't overstep the privileges the people of RC has put on you. Sioux Falls have only passed a suggestion, because a mandate or ordinance is not enforceable.

If it's passed, I will be taking all my business outside of RC. The economy has been hurting more than enough, don't hurt it even more.

SF SD council members who voted against the mask mandate proposal, received death threats publicly on social media and otherwise. I wonder how many of us that are speaking up against this ordinance, will face backlash from citizens. What are your plans for managing this?

Name: Alexis Brandsted

Address: 2138 Maywood Drive Rapid City SD

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: MASK MANDATE

Comment:

PLEASE DON'T ENFORCE MASKS! WE ARE A FREE STATE AND COUNTRY WE HAVE BEEN AN EXAMPLE OF FREEDOM PLEASE DONT TAKE THAT AWAY! IF WE BACK DOWN NOW IT WILL LOOK LIKE WE WERE WRONG IN THE FIRST PLACE! WE JUST HAVE TO STAY CLEAN WASH HANDS AND STAY SAFE!

Name: Anthony Rhodes

Address: 1121 Halley Ave

Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

Good Day;

Mandatory Masks for Rapid City; NO!

Here we are in November 2020. Droplets, air, surfaces and masks have undergone analysis back and forth. Wearing of masks has become a topic of fashion, contention and debate.

The main things which have not changed:

1. Corona Virus 2019 IS real.
2. The easily compromised population includes the elderly, those with underlying conditions, and those with weakened immune systems.
3. Hospitalizations and deaths "due to" Corona Virus 2019 are, nation wide, on the decline and have been for weeks.
4. Corona Virus has a better than 97% survival rate in the United States.

Why the rush to DO SOMETHING to slow the spread that may or may not have the desired impact.

Given this science, I cannot see a justification for a mandatory mask implementation in Rapid City. Allow those who are at risk to wear them if they chose. I strongly encourage you to vote NO. Thank you.

Name: Amanda Hammer

Address: 5311 Bethpage Drive

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Masks

Comment:

To those who are considering voting for a proposed mask mandate,

As a concerned citizen, I urge you to understand the science behind this VIRUS and the negative impacts mask wearing has. Decades of true and proven science shows that medical masks (not the fabric ones the general public is wearing) are NOT effective in preventing the transmission of viruses, especially viruses with molecules that are as small as what is found in SAR-COV-2 viruses.

Also, we have enough data now that proves this virus, for the majority of the population, poses little to no serious threat, or even death!

The decision should be left to the individual, and not by the government. It is NOT the responsibility of the government to overstep our rights as laid out in the Constitution. Consider what this mandate would do for these businesses that would lose so much if this mandate should be passed.

Gratefully and respectfully,

A concerned citizen

Name: Lynn R Kading

Address: 4580 S. Glenview Pl

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Masks

Comment:

The mandatory mask ordinance with a max. fine of \$500 seems severe. I am not opposed to encouraging masks be worn but to use this type of power to enforce seems severe. See Sioux Falls just passed one with no fines, maybe this should be good enough for Rapid City also. Please trust our citizens to do the right thing. There is a big difference of opinion on masks that a mandatory ordinance with a fine is over the top.

Name: Adam Daw

Address: 3638 Hall St. Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

Please include exceptions for individuals exercising at a gym. I noticed that the proposed ordinance, as written, mentions "swimming" and "team sports/exercises."

Specifically mentioning swimming might imply that someone running on a treadmill or using an exercise bike must wear a mask (even when others are 6ft+ away).

Ideally, I would like to see this fail. But if it passes, I'd at least like some clarity there.

Name: Haley Powell

Address: 14140 Wagon Train Lane

Piedmont SD 57769

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Face Mask Requirement

Comment:

I believe by going forward with Mandate to wear a mask take the rights away from the individual and therefore should not even be considered. This is not that big of a pandemic that we need to continue this fear.

Name: Bruce S. Evans

Address: 5777 Twilight Dr.

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

You have appeared on CNN in the past to criticize Governor Noem's handling of the virus. In Tuesday's press conference Rapid City you took another swipe at the Governor with a word game. What is the difference between "personal responsibility" and "personally responsible," and do you have a personal grudge against Governor Noem as a result of your vastly different approaches to the corona virus?

Name: Pastor Scott W Craig

Address: 3777 Anderson Rd. Rapid City, SD 57703

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: mask mandate

Comment:

Mr. Mayor and Members of the Council,

I am firmly opposed to a city-wide mask mandate. Almost every single person in Rapid City already wears a mask in public and yet positive cases increase in Rapid City. If masks were effective, then those who contract COVID and/or are hospitalized for COVID should be non-mask wearers. Monument Health cannot produce one case of an individual that died strictly from COVID-19. There is not one.

Masks are affective as a false sense of security, a visual cause for anxiety (especially for children), and for reinforcing the alarming false-narrative that every human is at this moment a potential threat to every human.

This is massive overreaction, and borders on tyranny.

If the mask mandate is passed, I will wear a mask only when and where I believe it is appropriate, and I will await fines and jail time.

Name: Chris Reynolds

Address: 1344 Cedar Street

Santa Monica, CA 90405

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Citywide COVID-19 mask mandate

Comment:

Consider that Ellsworth Air Force base has been designated a 'red' institution due to the high risk of COVID spread. They have instituted mandates requiring public mask-wearing for their personnel and imposed restrictions on where they can go during the outbreak.

What kind of community support does Rapid City show Ellsworth by refusing a temporary mask mandate during a health crisis? I grew up in Rapid City and remember well how they begged the Air Force on their knees not to close Ellsworth because it was so important to the local and state economy.

The Air Force and National Guard need strong and healthy forces to execute their mission. If Rapid City wants their presence and their support, the city should support them in return.

Support your community, support our military, and pass that mandate.

Name: Robert Limbaugh

Address: 2908 ELderberry Blvd

Rapid City, SD 57703

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type:

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

A mask mandate is not necessary in our state and city. The medical facilities are up to the job of handling th cases so there is NO need for requie mask use. Most businesses already have makrules (Walmart, City Buildings) so this mandate is not needed. Government does not have the right to order citizens to wear a mask.

Name: Aaron E Springstead

Address: 3820 Ponderosa CT Rapid City SD, 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Covid-19 Mask Mandate

Comment:

We can't give in to fear. Everywhere else in the world is forcing mask mandates against freedom and against science, all for the least deadly pandemic in human history. Masks haven't stopped or slowed covid anywhere else why would that be different here? No, this is about power, power over the people. Did you think an oppressive government would take over without some excuse? Here it is, a virus with a 99.9% survival rate. Is that all it takes? Don't let the authoritarians win, they don't deserve this power, we rule ourselves here in America. Liberty must always be considered first, it is so easily lost and never given back. If we start forcing people to wear masks, that's the first step in oppression, you think they'll stop there? It's a slippery slope from here. So many fought and died for liberty, we don't have to start that cycle again. Please reconsider this mask mandate. For our forefathers, for the American way.

Name: Robert Horsley

Address: 228 Pinedale Drive

Rapid City, SD

Horsley Specialties Inc.

160 E Main ST North

Rapid City, SD

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate.

Comment:

There are more hazards than protections by putting everyone in these various face coverings. They are by in large only a placebo. Even if you have everyone in HEPA filtered respirators they would only be effective down to .3 microns. My understanding is that covid virus particles are .1 microns. The meaning is that even HEPA filtered masks would not be very effective.

The covid particles will sail right through "ALL" these masks which you are proposing to require people to wear. The only possible benefit I can see is that the cloth may reduce the velocity of air resulting from a cough. The covid virus will still go right through it.

If it raises awareness maybe it will help but to recommend fines and jail time to enforce will make things feel like a police state. THAT DEFFINATELY WILL NOT HELP.

Name: Kelsye Gould

Address: 1850 Skyline Ranch Rd

Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

The funny thing about personal liberties is that you have to be alive to enjoy them. Please help us protect ourselves by protecting each other and pass a mask mandate.

Name: Alexis Sullivan

Address: 4045 Derby Lane Apt 3

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: No on Mask Mandate

Comment:

Hello, thank you for taking the time to read my comment. I would like to start out by saying I am against a mask mandate. There is no scientific proof that mask wearing is the most effective way to stop any virus. There was a Danish study done this week that proves there is no significant percentage to have a real case for mask wearing. We need to be talking about bettering our immune system. There is other options to help keep yourself from being sick. Vitamin D and C, zinc, and copper supplements are more effective at boosting your immune systems. I truly believe and have had this backed by other medical professionals that constant mask wearing is not good for your immune system. Especially since you are just breathing in your own bacteria into your lungs which can cause bacterial infection. I am 30 weeks pregnant and I choose not to wear a mask. That is something I choose. It is not something that should be forced on me.

Name: Timothy Scull

Address: 1526 Racine Street Rapid City SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item:

Comment:

"Mandates" are simply the PC way of enacting heavy-handed and draconian government measures. This would establish a dangerous anti-liberty precedent. It is enough if places of business establish their own rules for store entry as they are private enterprises and If the government doesn't like those rules then too bad! If the mayor wants rules then make them for PUBLIC buildings and areas- not private ones!

Name: Maxine Kyser

Address: 3645 Sturgis Rd., Suite 200, Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Health Pros/Cons

Comment:

Does factual evidence show more health risks by wearing a mask than not? There is not a mask made to prevent viruses that is available. If the mask is made for medical use, it does not help with viruses only bacterial infections. (Read the mask's box.) FACT: Health risks from a mask are many and can include Legionnaires disease that can be fatal in 2 weeks unless properly treated and has many symptoms similar to COVID 19. If a person has similar symptoms will they get treated properly or at all? We need a better mask like a better immune system. Sweden issues Vitamin D instead of money. Rapid City can do better than the average and get better results by being different and save lives. Manage the fear by letting people do something that is REALLY effective with factual evidence to back it up and not provide a sugar pill in hopes of the placebo effect. - Maxine Kyser

Name: Lori Fippin

Address: 3610 Knuckleduster Road, Rapid City, SD 57703

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

I think it is a good step as covid numbers are rising in Rapid City and each person should do his/her part. It is only a mask and it does help no matter what people think. Wearing a mask doesn't hurt anyone but covid does in tremendous ways. It's not like it's going to be forever. Everyone is in this together and if everyone comes together we will defeat Covid.

Name: Solomon Smith

Address: 315 South Canyon Rd, Rapid City Sd 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

Please vote in favor of a mask mandate.

This is an issue of basic freedom. Taking away another person's health, wellbeing, or even life is a terrible violation of their human freedom.

The common sense fact of the matter is that the situation that we have created here in South Dakota clearly shows the need for a mask mandate. There can be no argument with the simple truth of hospitals and ICUs filled to overflowing and death rates escalating by the week.

Our disregard for human life is an embarrassment that must stop. Vote in favor of a mask mandate.

Name: Morgan Olson

Address: 2306 Arrowhead Drive

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

Please do not do a city wide mask mandate and allow people to make their OWN choices for their health. We are a democracy, we are NOT ruled by the government.

Name: Sharee and Marvin Johnson

Address: 25246 Holiday Trail Custer SD

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

We live in Custer but we shop in Rapid, go to entertainment in Rapid, eat out in Rapid and go to doctors and hospital in Rapid. We are strongly in favor of the mask mandate. Wearing masks is the one thing that has proven effective. Wearing masks takes responsibility for ourselves and for others around us. Wearing masks is a sign of love and caring for the community. Please pass the mask mandate. Thank You

Name: Jenny Schmidt

Address: 2910 Lanark Rd.

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

Dear City Council Members,

I sincerely ask that you pass the mask mandate at tonight's council meeting. Mask wearing isn't happening in our community and it's unfortunate that citizens are unable to police themselves and wear a mask to protect the most vulnerable in our society, but that does seem to be where we are.

Covid-19 is at very high levels in our community and anything we can do to decrease those numbers and impact on our health care system would be most appreciated.

Very Truly Yours,

Jenny Schmidt

Name: Leland DeGolier

Address: 1721 Copperdale Dr

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Requirements

Comment:

To avoid worse outcomes like shutdowns please listen to science and require masks.

Name: Katie Murray

Address: 3950 Fairway Hills Dr. Apt. 206

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

Thank you for your service to our city, you have been leaders during an unusual and difficult time. I support masks, I wear a mask, but I am not in favor of a mandate.

1. Professionals have identified most infections occur in private, small groups which will continue to take place in homes and this mask mandate will have no significant effect. People don't just come in contact with each other in public, they also come in contact in private.

2. It is a mistake to impose this mandate on indoor gyms. Gyms have people who are trying to be healthy, in the middle of a pandemic we should not be discouraging healthy behavior. Dr. Kurra identified "eating out with alcohol" as risky behavior, not running on a treadmill. I think it is irresponsible to pick and choose what advice the government is going to mandate from professionals. If this mandate passes, I would at least very much like to see you consider exempting indoor gyms.

Name: Deanna Becket

Address: 10084 Willmington Drive

Summerset, SD 57718

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Commnet

Agenda Item:

Comment:

My husband, adult children, and I shop in Rapid City. We ask you to keep masking a choice and not make it a mandate. Our civil rights matter. Let us continue to make our own choices.

Name: Emily Heilman

Address: 4313 Duckhorn St

Rapid City, SD 57703

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

Hello. I urge you to please vote NO on the mask mandate. There is absolutely NO scientific evidence to show that mask mandates help slow the spread of covid.

Thank you.

Name: Father Cody Maynus

Address: St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

910 Soo San Drive

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

I'm writing in favor of the proposed temporary mask mandate. Our medical experts have time and time again encouraged the wearing of masks and the practicing of physical distancing. As an American and a South Dakotan, I value freedom and common sense. But only insofar as it serves the Common Good. I have encouraged my parishioners to make simple sacrifices (masks, distancing, hand washing) for the betterment of our whole community. While a mask mandate might be unnecessary if our fellow citizens were willing to make sacrifices for the Common Good, that is clearly not something that has happened. In this instance, it is a moral imperative of the government to step in and protect our right to life. As a Christian, as a priest, and as the pastor of a parish, it is my firm theological and moral opinion that wearing a mask is how we love our neighbors (c.f. Lev. 19:9-8; Matt. 22: 34-40; Matt. 25: 31-46; Mk. 12:30-31, etc.)

Name: Charisima Straatmeyer

Address: 3860 Dawn Ln

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Masking

Comment:

As an active medical professional, I am in agreement with personal responsibility. Each person is responsible for their own health.

If a citizen thinks a mask will protect them, then they can wear a mask. One citizen's fear should not infringe upon another citizen's freedom.

With this, I oppose a mask mandate.

~Charisima~

Name: Jeremy Schubert

Address: 2931 west St Anne

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Commnet

Agenda Item: Mask

Comment:

If the hospital & doctors says this is what needs to be done then do it.

Name: Jilian Jones

Address: 16345 lower spring creek road

Hermosa SD 57744

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Masks

Comment:

Dear city council members,

I'm writing you today to ask that you be leaders for our city. It is our social responsibility to make ethical decisions to protect all who live and visit rapid city. Please vote yes for a mask mandate. This is not a silver bullet but it's something we can all do to HELP stop the spread of Covid. My family and I are relying on you all to be leaders and do what is right for the greater good of humanity.

With respect and gratitude,

Jilian Jones

Name: Ken Jobbins

Address: 502 Box Elder Rd W

Box Elder SD 57719

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

I am strongly against this Mask issue.

Not only do you NOT have the authority to issue a demand of this nature, you are invading MY rights. Instead of trying to flex the muscles you do not have why don't you try to work with us rather than trying to inflict your socialist views and showing support for your good Comrade buddy Laura Armstrong..... Instead of bring over power and an obnoxious [REDACTED] just remember that you are just a Public Servant, as is She, and it would be a good idea if you both started to serve.

I guess Communism is coming to the USA no thanks to you pair.

Name: Mary Caudle

Address: 617 Middle Valley Drive

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Masks

Comment:

I am completely opposed to a mask mandate, as it is already required by business owners where they feel it necessary, and because there is no evidence - controlled studies- to show that masks reduce the spread of the virus. Such a mandate is contrary to everything America stands for. Liberty. Self governance.

Name: Karen Hall

Address: 1800 Kings Road

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

I urge all council members to please vote YES on the mask mandate as a matter of public health. We have many laws that limit our freedom: we drive on the right side of the road in order to protect each other from collisions. We stop at red lights for the same reason. We cannot yell "fire!" in a crowded space for fear of a stampede that could injure or kill our fellow citizens. We can't smoke in public places because secondhand smoke has been shown, by science, to be harmful to those who breathe it in.

The same can be said for COVID-19. Breathing in respired droplets from those who have the virus can be harmful or even cause death. Let's all please protect each other by eliminating as many of those droplets as we can. Finally, a mask mandate will also help reduce the number of confrontations between those who refuse to wear masks and those who would like them to comply with this basic public health guideline.

Name: Lisa Loveridge

Address: 324 Freiheit Lane

Box Elder, SD, 57719

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type:

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

As a business owner in Rapid City, I am against a mask mandate in Rapid City. I have health issues that make it difficult for me to wear a mask. My specific type of business does not allow my clients to wear a mask during the entire time they are being served. It is also against my constitutional rights to require me to wear a mask. I believe that the best course of action to remain well is to wash hands and keep distance from others in public.

I am adamantly against a mask mandate.

Name: Danialle Rose

Address: 1738 Albany Ave

Hot Springs, SD. 57747

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Masks

Comment:

We used to shop frequently in Rapid City. But the large amount of covid virus cases and the lack of mask wearing in public have led us to shop elsewhere. Just this week my step-son tested positive. He may have gotten the virus from his sister who works and moves about freely in Rapid City. Please vote to mandate mask wearing in public.

Respectfully

Danialle Rose

Name: Amy Willson

Address: 4301 Milehigh Ave

Rapid City, AS 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandates

Comment:

I'm requesting we preserve personal liberties and allow each individual to choose if a mask is right for them. I personally have asthma that is prevalent at my house and prefer to use common sense, social distancing has worked for me, and I see no need to strip people of their personal freedoms, it's a slippery slope and next their will be forced vaccination. Please protect individual rights and no mask mandates.

Name: Marie Hermanson

Address: 4306 Vinecliff Dr

Rapid City, SD 57703

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mandatory Mask Requirement

Comment:

I am completely against the City mandating mask requirements. It is the freedom of the citizens to choose whether to wear them or not. If you are at risk and feel secure in wearing a mask, please do so, but DO NOT require the rest of us to wear them.

Name: DONALD WENTZ

Address: 5108 CHALKSTONE DR

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type:

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

I urge the council to pass a mask mandate in the strongest way I can. We can't completely halt the spread of COVID, but we can hope to slow it down. It isn't much to ask of a person to reduce the risk to other individuals by using a mask in public spaces. We must battle the virus, not one another. We are at war with CORONA, and war involves compromise and sacrifice for the greater good. THAT is how we look out for our own and each other.

Name: Taylor Nicolaisen

Address: 227 Philip Drive

Rapid City SD

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

I'm offering my full support for a mask mandate. The pandemic is spiralling out of control and states with more mask use are in much better shape.

If we want to save rapid city lives, this is a no-brainer.

Taylor Nicolaisen

Name: Andrea Daniel

Address: 2127 Maywood Dr.

Rapid City, SD

57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

Dear Council Members,

I urge you to reject the the mask mandate. Please consider the fact that larger metropolitan areas that have been under mask mandates since March (ie New York, California, Chicago) continue to see a rise in numbers. Rapid City schools, all grocery stores and most stores already require masks. Please let individuals and businesses make the decision for themselves.

Thank you for your consideration.

Name: Shannon Reitzel

Address: 13841 Clydesdale Road

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

I am opposed to a mask mandate in our city. We live in a free country and we have been given the guidelines from the CDC which we all can voluntarily follow. A mandate from our city council would be a gross overreach of government in to our jobs, businesses, activities and personal lives. Using a virus that has a death rate of less than 1% in our state to restrict our civil liberties is unacceptable.

How would you enforce this? Is it Constitutional to exclude some citizens (athletes & public service) while mandating that their fellow citizens comply? Does Section II.d violate HIPAA and how would you enforce this section? How would you regulate whether 6ft distancing can be achieved or maintained in businesses (private property)?

Government does not have the right to destroy the livelihoods of its citizens and mandating restrictions on businesses does just that.

Name: Jeannette Oliver

Address: 23657 Wilderness Canyon Rd, Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: mask mandate

Comment:

Attention Council Members;

I do not believe the government should mandate the wearing of masks in public. Although I believe wearing masks can be beneficial in curbing the spread of COVID, I believe it is the responsibility of each individual to respect the safety of others and themselves by choosing to wear a mask. I think there could be an effort made by the various levels of government to educate the public about these personal and community goals with great success if the wearing of masks is truly desired.

Respectfully submitted,

Name: Jason Cole

Address: 1121 E Saint Francis St

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Ordinance

Comment:

Masks have been proven to help mitigate the spread of Covid-19. 100 years ago the nation, and Rapid City also faced the question of mask mandates. There was the same pushback against infringing on personal freedoms as there is today. Had there been a national mask mandate issued during this past summer, we wouldn't even need to be worrying about Covid as we are right now.

It's time to realize that a social contract we all need to buy into is the health and welfare of everyone in the community. There is so many comments I have read to this point that have been written in bad faith. Stop making this a political issue, the virus isn't checking voter registration cards prior to infecting.

Name: Cozy Dorton

Address: 433 Clay St.

Custer SD 57730

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Requirement

Comment:

We live in Custer South Dakota, but we are in rapid frequently for doctors appointments and some necessary shopping. We have chosen to go to businesses that are using masks as we do. We do not want any businesses to have to close, but we want to be safe wherever we choose to shop and go in Rapid City. We are asking that you consider the mask mandate for your city. It is something we can do for each other throughout the Black Hills. Thank you for considering comments from outside your city. We have a stake in your city's businesses. We hope we can expand the business as we now frequent.

Most sincerely,

Bob and Cozy Dorton

Name: Robert Smith

Address: 313 Dunbar Ct

Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

By all means please pass the amendment. We NEED to do everything possible to protect our citizens. The MY rights issue has to come to an end and we need to think more of others rights to live.

Name: Eleuterio C Maisonet

Address: 8280 N Star Rd

Rapid City

SD

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: City Mask Mandate

Comment:

Good morning. I just like to make a comment concerning Mandatory Mask Mandate. Wearing a mask to protect ourselves or other from the pandemic affecting our country does not provide the safeguards against the virus. Common sense does. In fact, others countries are turning away from this idea because it provides a false sense of safety. I do not recommend for Rapid City to consider passing such mandate. We are free people. We don't need the government to tell us what to do. Its up to us to protected ourselves, not government.

Thank you

Name: Angela Wolter

Address: 405 Canal Street, Ste 2100

Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type:

Agenda Item: mask mandate

Comment:

Hi, I am a business owner in Rapid City. I own a marketing company and a construction company. The thought of our construction workers rolling trusses with masks on doesn't make any sense. It is hard enough to be up there and make sure the other guy doesn't accidentally kill you with his end of the truss and now you want them to wear masks? With my marketing company, I have a client that is expanding all across the state but not into Rapid City because he says he could never survive with his restaurant business in this city with what they did to restaurants and bars early on. I also just bought a building in Meade County since they are trusting their citizens to do what is right for them. Every year we have about 30 million people get the flu and we lived normally through that all these years. Please reconsider

Name: Eli Fromm

Address: 719 Alta Vista Drive Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

I am in favor of a mask mandate. It is unfortunate that mask wearing, an effective measure against COVID transmission, has been politicized. There is substantial community spread and our medical community is overwhelmed. We need this measure to slow the spread, protect our medical professionals, and hopefully prevent further restrictions and lockdowns.