

Name: Rob Livingstone

Address: 408 Pine Street

Rapid City,SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Masks

Comment:

Like seat belts in cars, masks save lives. Not all but most.

Masks work. Compare the death rates in the early stages of Covid to recent death rates

COVID is not a hoax, ask the families of the 250,000 dead. Only 31% all hospital beds are available with some counties already shipping out patient. With the expected Corona growth rate for South Dakota, there will be no hospital beds two weeks after Thanksgiving. So it is not the fact that 54% of people tested for the virus in South Dakota test positive, or the fact that we should soon see 75 to 100 deaths a day, we have already had one day that bad. As Governor Kristi Noem says, it is the shortage of Hospital beds that we must be concerned about. If we all just start wearing masks now we might be able to avoid a complete lockdown and 100s of deaths.

Name: John Halverson

Address: 412 42nd St

Meeting:

Comment Type:

Agenda Item: Mask

Comment:

How nice if people would take the Governor's suggestion and "be responsible", but it is clear that most appear to be unwilling to make the least effort to slow the spread of Covid-19 by wearing a mask in public. We South Dakotans like to brag about how hospitable we are and how willing to help others, and yet I see hordes of people that cannot be bothered to make the least effort to stop the spread of a disease that has gone rampant. We passed laws against drunk driving for the public good and safety. We passed laws requiring convicted pedophiles register for public good and safety. We've passed any number of laws for the public good and safety, most of which stayed in effect permanently. Why not pass this temporary law for the public good and safety that requires masks in public? Yes, some folks will get upset, but you aren't here to make everyone happy....you have a responsibility with your leadership. Have courage and LEAD!

Name: Sarah Trimble

Address: 4771 Summerset Dr

Rapid City SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

Being a business owner and having a gymnastics recreational facility, I can tell you that wearing masks for our students or coaches is simply not practical or safe. There is reason we have to take off all jewelry, pull hair back etc. in order to perform coaching ( which includes spotting kids safely) and for students to learn/perform skills, nothing can restrict your vision or serious injury could occur. When I have to wear my mask, it restricts my vision and in gymnastics both hands are busy so adjustments if make moves are not possible-we simply will NOT allow our coaches or students wear them-period. I will sue the city before I risk my students at safety

Name: Rick Bell

Address: 1206 Clark St., Rapid City, SD. 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Masks

Comment:

I believe masks wearing in public places should be mandatory on a temporary basis. See how it's been effective in other places (IA & MO):

<https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.10.28.20221705v1.full>

Thank you. R. Bell

Name: Charles Stout

Address: 4120 Villa Ridge Ct #104 Rapid City, SD

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask debate

Comment:

I wish to lend my support for a mask requirement for Rapid City. My belief is masks reduce the number of virus transfers from person to person. If our infection rate drops we should be able to keep our business' open to the benefit of all residents.

Thank you for taking up the issue in absence of a state wide ban.

Sincerely,

Charles Stout

Name: Nancy B Stout

Address: 4120 Villa Ridge Ct. #104, Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item:

Comment:

It can do no harm to wear a mask. In fact, it would allow me to do more shopping because currently I refuse to shop where mask-wearing is not required. If people were required to wear masks, it seems to me more people could safely work, shop, and play. An ounce of prevention of Covid- spread is worth a "ton" of cure.

Name: Coreen Lerwick

Address: 243 W Birch St Spearfish SD 57783 on behalf of my mother Carol Donnenwirth residing at WestHills Village Health Care.

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Masks

Comment:

My family has lived in Rapid City since 1966. My mother Carol Donnenwirth now resides in Westhills Healthcare. Why should she contract COVID and have to be shipped to WY, CO, Idaho or anywhere other than Monument Health Rapid City? SHOULD THIS HAPPEN, SHE SHOULD AT LEAST BE ABLE TO DIE IN HER OWN HOSPITAL. IT'S TIME TO ADULT UP AND PROTECT EVERYONE. ITS THE RIGHT HUMANE THING TO DO.

LET'S MASK UP!

Name: Dr. Jackie Gilbertson

Address: 623 Quincy Street, Rapid City, S.D. 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item:

Comment:

It appears as though mis-information as well as greed and ignorance may prevail in the mask mandate decision. I think that creating a public list of businesses in Rapid City that do not require their employees or customers to wear masks would be helpful. I realize economics are tenuous at this point but if businesses rank the risk of losing customers for their negligence possibly the situation may improve. As well, people would have the knowledge to boycott anti-mask businesses. A big sign on the door requiring masks and backing that up with possible trespassing charges may cause people to consider whether freedom allows them to contaminate others and possibly cause death. Any thoughts?

Name: Sharon Cole

Address: 3012 Tomahawk Dr

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

As residents of Rapid City we are against mask mandates. Government is too far reaching into our lives and where does it stop? We already respect all businesses by wearing masks. It doesn't stop covid! Several of our friends' families have gotten it even tho they wear masks ALL THE TIME. You now want to reach into any private work space, homes, neighborhoods and mask everyone. Neighbors, coworkers, friends, family are already upset with each other in this horrible time and this gives them the 'right' to have someone put in jail or fined! Are you kidding me? We are ALL going to be exposed to this virus at some point and the outcome is up to God. Thank you for your hard work and we will be praying for you to make a wise decision, not one based out of fear.

Name: Christopher Miller

Address: 4802 Copper Hill dr

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Commnet

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

Very disgusting to see a mayor who does not reside in a town he governs try to make South Dakota a communist place. Move to California if you want mandates. Your future was made by this ridiculous decision on masks. How ignorant our people have become to think a mask will stop the spread of a virus. IMMUNE SYSTEM. Thats science. Keep trying to take away people's freedom and see what happens.

Name: Rebecca Dagele

Address: 206 42nd St, Rapid City SD

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: 2nd reading of mask mandate

Comment:

Thank you for passing the first reading. I used to proudly tell people I've lived in the Black Hills my whole life, and now I'm ashamed because nationwide we are seen as ignorant and uncaring. We have one of the highest rates per capita in the entire world. I'm not proud of that. I have asthma and am lucky enough to work from home. I have been doing so since March, along with wearing a mask in public. Wearing a mask is literally the easiest thing I have been doing in the last few months, even with asthma. Every year as long as I can remember I have gotten seriously ill around the end of summer with a respiratory infection, and/or bronchitis. I did not this year. Whether that's due to staying home more or wearing a mask or a combination doesn't matter because it clearly worked. Distancing and masks work. Please pass this mask mandate, thank you.

Name: Roben Rudy-Hinker

Address: 1227 Clover Ridge Dr.

Meeting:

Comment Type:

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate -NO!

Comment:

NO! We are a free people. If people are sick, then they should stay home. Do not burden our police with enforcing a mask mandate. If we have the police bandwidth to do this then we need LESS police. Mask Mandates do NOT work. We are a free people. Places with mask mandates are not any safer... California where they are limiting the number of people at thanksgiving and when you can go out.... is that the next step? So YOU can keep us safe? I am responsible for my own health and safety. If you are scared -- stay home. Do not do this. Our Mayor is stoking the fear! 99.9% recovery rate. Why are you even considering this? 99.9 recovery rate!!! Seriously.

Name: Brian Jenkins

Address: 22814 Gateway Dr., Box Elder, South Dakota 57719

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

First I've just recently learned to you are trying to put in place a mask mandate?! This is completely ridiculous if you let this go through! I recently moved to this great state of South Dakota because I thought this was a state that respected the peoples individual rights/liberties (unlike the state I came from)! Again the state I came from had mandates (which I didn't follow) and I REFUSE to go back living under that! So just so you know if you pass any form of a mask mandate I WILL NOT follow it under ANY circumstance and I WILL fight it EVERYWHERE I GO!

Name: Lisa Knigge

Address: 604 44th Street

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: mask mandate

Comment:

Thank you Mayor for taking the step and protecting us from others who don't care whether my 83 year old mom dies or I with preexisting conditions gets sick leaving my teenage son without a mother. I am so tired of going into stores with signs and then having to go back home cause i didnt feel safe to shop. I am a single mother and have to do all the shopping for my household so I am so very happy I can go and feel safe again. I personally think there should be an incremental fine. 1st offense-25 2nd 50 etc. You dont pay your fine dont bother getting your license renewed or your hunting license. etc.

Name: Cathy Donnenwirth

Address: 4609 N. 43rd St.

Phoenix, AZ. 85018

On Behalf of Carol Donnenwirth who resides at Westhills Village, Rapid City, South Dakota

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate for Rapid City

Comment:

I am writing with serious concern for Westhills Village to continue to have adequate staff that can care for those in Nursing Care and Assisted Living. They are no longer able to keep Covid out due to community spread. They have worked so so hard to do so since March. My mother lives there, is 90 years old and she doesn't want to die from Covid. She states she doesn't want to get Covid. She is happy and has no wish to die. When Arizona Mayor instituted Mask Mandates in late June, it helped reduce the spread immediately. Please do what is necessary to save people's lives and institute a mask mandate. It is ridiculous that it is a controversial issue when it requires so little sacrifice. I also am seriously concerned about hospitals being able to care for people. Thank you for doing the right thing.

Name: David Parrish

Address: 4800 Everest Rd., Lot 67

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item:

Comment:

I oppose mandatory face-mask ordinances. Many studies, including a most recent study by a Cambridge virologist (<https://www.wnd.com/2020/11/4871000/>) have shown that face masks are ineffective in preventing the spread of COVID-19.

Name: Bryn Cerasoli

Address: 1385 Otter Rd

Sturgis, SD. 57785

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

As someone who recently moved to South Dakota from a mask mandated state, I was begging you to not create a mask mandate. The most heavily restricted states are still seeing spikes, the masks are completely useless! Worse, they turn people against each other and create an oppressive environment. I know someone who was spit on for not wearing a mask. Is that really what you want to turn your city into?? Masks do nothing but trap bacteria, they can not stop a microscopic virus. Keep Rapid City free, no mask mandates!!!

Name: Christina Spreizer

Address: 3314 cottonwood st

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

I think it's entirely reasonable to expect people to wear masks & I'm glad that the city is finally enforcing what should be common courtesy.

Name: Jerilyn Church

Address: 2611 Elderberry Blvd., Rapid City, SD

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type:

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

Why City Council should adopt a mask mandate:

In Pennington County

- 1 in 15 residents has been infected & 1 in 1865 have died

Recent rapid rise in COVID-19 activity

- Past 7 days we have seen a 23.5% increase in cases & nearly 20% increase in deaths

Death Rate- Past 7 days

- US-22.3 deaths per million
- Penn Co- 99 deaths per million (Penn co death rate exceeds US rate by 4.4 x and it is accelerating)

Testing Outcomes

- Well over half of people that are tested, test positive
- 7-day person test positivity is 59.1%

Cases to double by Thanksgiving - Since the End of Oct cases went from 4100 cases to 8200 cases

Case Doubling

- Cases are doubling in 4 weeks, has steadily been 5 weeks or more
- If we maintain or increase the number of cases we have seen recently, by thanksgiving total cases in Penn Co will have doubled since the End of Oct from 4100 cases to 8200 cases

Name: Matt Olsen

Address: 13125 Michelle Dr. Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask ordinance

Comment:

South Korea reported their first covid-19 case on 1-20-20, the same day as the US did.

South Korea's population: 51 million

COVID deaths: 498

South Dakota's population: 0.88 million

COVID deaths: 674

South Korea learned from H1N1 and took strict measures to save lives. National, state and local leadership has failed South Dakotans for 8 months, PLEASE do the right thing now. We have 2nd hand smoking laws to protect non-smokers in public spaces. Figure. It. Out.

Thank you!

Name: Kari Green

Address: 4800 Everest Rd #52

Rapid City SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

I am a resident of Rapid City, my 20 year old son is currently receiving services in Sioux Falls in relation to Autism, I received a phone call this evening that he has tested positive for Covid. I understand the frustrations that surround wearing a mask while in public, however I ask that our community keep people like my son in mind, there are countless others who to no fault of their own are in facilities due to medical and mental health conditions. While people gather this holiday season thousands of people will be spending it alone due to this virus. Wearing a mask is a reminder that we are in this together and is a symbol of respect for our neighbors, our health care workers and first responders. Thank You

Name: Leonard McCreary

Address: 971 Creekside View Ln

Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

If this passes, kiss everything you like about Rapid goodbye. My family recently decided to leave Colorado, where these mandates forced upon the people have decimated the communities. Now our hearts are breaking, because we've lived the preview. In CO, homelessness has increased by more than tenfold. "Transient camps" are consuming Boulder; parks are off-limits to children. Nights are filled with screaming of displaced citizens fighting. Addictions have exploded; healthy things like church, gyms, and schools, and most doctors - including psychiatrists - have been deemed "nonessential," and forced into closure. Suicides FAR outpace the death count caused by "virus cases." The "cases" numbers are invalid. NO COUNTY in the US that have implemented mask mandates have lifted them; they've only increased restriction - without the draconian measures having any affect on "cases." Masks would be Rapid's demise. The evidence is clear!

Name: Patrice C Lynch

Address: 1016 ENCHANTMENT RD

Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate and other Covid 19

Comment:

Please. PLEASE! REQUIRE MASKS! It has been over 11 months of this deadly virus hit the U.S.. Your early restrictions helped slow the spread but then our idiot governor used federal Covid19 relief funds to encourage people from all the world to come here. We have to become more restrictive due to this world crisis. We do not have medical staff, facilities like big cities. Masks do mitigate the spread. It is the least we can do as citizens. This issue has become political statement and it should not be. A mask mandate would help businesses stay open and enforce mask requests. Noem said to "just stay home". We have but we need items and do not have people to run those errands. Have the non mask wearers stay home for awhile! Council needs to flatten the curve...I dont want to see my loved ones shipped to Texas to die alone and away from home!

Name: Susan Hade

Address: 830 Joy Avenue

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

There is plenty of research to support the wearing of masks to slow down this virus. Please add my name in support of a mask mandate.

Name: Marnie Cook

Address: 5155 Prairie Violet Lane

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: No.CC111920-01(539 KB)

Comment:

You sell, we buy. The business community must understand this is give and take. More dead in SD than the population of Woonsocket and you refuse to mandate masks? I have always tried to buy local and how do you give back? You demand to stay open during a pandemic of epic proportions, deny science and simple mask wearing, solutions which could be saving your business and our lives right now, but these you refused. We live in the 21st century and had 9 months to prepare for this. Instead you are yelling about freedom, rights and conspiracy theories about masks causing heart attacks. Add this to a long history of anti-worker legislation: low wages, stagnant wages, deny employee healthcare, employee wages subsidized by your patrons, Right To Work laws, etc. I have many choices. Purchasing from socially minded businesses and owners has become more important to me than buying local.

Name: Jasmine Stangle

Address: 6615 Astoria Lane

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Proposed Ordinance NO. 6453

Comment:

Respectfully We the People didnt elect u to give us medical advice or for u to take disputed policy matters & personal views & force them onto the citizens.Differential Risk assessment is part of being a rational human being.Blanket bans or implementation of ordinances w/o regard to age/health striation are irrational.Survival rates by age groups 0-19 have a 99.99% 20 to 49 a 99.98% chance, 50-69 99.5% & 70 & above a 94.6%.OR req masks 6/29 if they worked y the 2nd shutdown.WA mandated masks on 6/26 y the 2nd shutdown?A federal judge ruled restrictions such as this were unconstitutional.Stating"Even in emergencies the Constitution still applies, & gov officials must follow it."14th amendment- nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, w/o due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws"Please uphold the constitution & OUR liberty & vote NO

Name: Patrick & Cynthia Clinch

Address: 202 E Saint Charles Street

Rapid city, SD

57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: unlawful mask mandate

Comment:

Dear Mayor and City council;

The infection fatality ratio is the ratio of deaths among the infected. Do you know the current world wide or local Infection Fatality Ratio. Please use local SD numbers and figure our local SD Infection Fatality rate. the following is supposedly from the CDCAs of 9/30/2020.

Of those age 0 – 19 the infection fatality ratio is .00003

Of those age 20 – 49 the infection fatality ratio is .0002

Of those age 50 – 69 the infection fatality ratio is .005

Of those age 70 + the infection fatality ratio is .0054,

I question whether we should be reacting/over re-acting, potentially destroying family lively hoods with such potential negligible infection fatality rates.

Name: Kelly Renner

Address: 3808 Parkview Drive, Rapid City, SD. 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

Yes, yes, yes, please on a mask mandate. Enforcement even for those who have a health condition waivers is absolutely necessary too and possible with requiring that group to wear a face shield. I beg the Council to implement this, as I have been in quarantine since March because people preach freedom and don't take into consideration I want that too. Yet, here I am with mine taken away out of having to maintain quarantine for my safety as an immunocompromised individual! Doesn't seem fair for me either to not be able to go out for necessary things because others cannot do the responsible thing for all of us...wear a mask for ALL of us to maintain some form of freedom! Again, I encourage the council to all vote "yes" on the mask mandate!

Name: Shawn Lykken

Address: 4109 Sunset Dr

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

I hear many people stating that a mask ordinance is not enforceable, and so it shouldn't be enacted. I want to note that most laws are not 100% enforceable. People can choose to not wear a seatbelt, but that doesn't invalidate the law put in place to save people's lives.

I ask that the leaders of this community can put aside politics, listen to the science, and do what needs to be done to protect the health of this community by enacting a mask ordinance.

Name: Mary Deibert

Address: 1888 HillsvieW Dr.

Rapid City, SD. 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

I support a mask mandate until our Covid numbers decrease significantly. As retirees, my husband and I are able to self-isolate and only go out when absolutely needed and always with masks. Not everyone has that ability and those who choose not to wear a mask are impacting lives all over South Dakota. Please vote yes on this important issue. Thank you.

Name: Judith reeves

Address: 22900 173 av

Owanka sd

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mandating of masks

Comment:

It is our civil rights to choose wearing a mask or not to stay healthy we choose not to wear a mask  
breathe Gods air An herd immunity as has been for many yrs...thks

Name: James S WalderS, MD

Address: 23606 Wilderness Canyon Rd.

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

I am not against masks, but I'm against mask mandates. I will wear a mask to make some feel better, but I fear it gives a false sense of security. The support in the medical literature for masks limiting the spread of respiratory viruses is flimsy to nonexistent, no objective data and only observational studies, subject to rampant bias. Will the mandate enforce nose-in and nose-out wearers, will it dictate cleaning and changing masks. Some masks I've seen are disgusting and probably dangerous fomites. Will the police enforce this ridiculous infringement on our freedom? Many have said masks have become a religion and not a science. Is the next step to dictate the number of people at our Thanksgiving tables?

Name: Bryan Hermanson

Address: 1212 Oregon Str. Ste#2

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask mandates

Comment:

Face masks are the ubiquitous symbol of a pandemic that has sickened 35 million people and killed more than 1 million. In hospitals and other health-care facilities, the use of medical-grade masks clearly cuts down transmission of the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

Cloth masks are only as good as the person that wears it personal hygiene. Do they wash it daily, weekly or never. Half the people I see wearing their self made mask are gross!

I feel that if you make mask mandatory in public settings. Have the business owners provide medical grade mask.

Name: Heather Buntain

Address: 436 E Van Buren St RC SD 57701

Meeting: City Council Working Section

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

I strongly feel that there should NOT be a mask mandate. Wearing a mask should be a personal choice for each and every person or business to decide. I will gladly wear a mask when a business asks me to and when I can not social distance but it should be the people's choice. It is gross overreach of the government if a mask mandate is done! I just wish I knew there was a deadline for comments...so I know it won't make it to the meeting but I still felt it needed to be said.

Name: Vicki Miller

Address: 3909 Marathon Ct

Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Covid-19

Comment:

In total disagreement with a mask mandate. Yes, I do wear a mask but that is MY choice. No one should have to be forced to wear a mask or anything else. Whatever ever happened to freedom of choice???? Do all of you sanitize everything that is brought into your home before it is put away? What about gloves? What about the people who did get covid-19 while wearing a mask? What about those who have worked with people for a week who tested positive but the rest of the office didn't get sick? I don't believe a mask is the answer!

Name: Cory Brandon Colon

Address: 5007 Pierre st Rapid City, Sd 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

I don't agree with masks being forced upon us when the results are the same with the masks on. America is experiencing a rise in covid cases in places where masks are being mandated. What's the point in wearing a mask when it changes nothing? Scientifically anyone who understands biology knows this is a joke. I don't agree with being forced to do something that has little or no effect, on a virus that has over a 95% mortality rate. We should have the freedom to do as we feel personally instead of being stripped of our rights. God has control over our lives, a mask won't change that. I don't support our freedom being tested and losing rights. Our government needs to unite and protect us, not divide and conquer us based on biased opinions. This is not a pandemic, it's a panic attack on the American people with no concrete facts to back up anything. Please make the right choice and don't force us to wear masks! God bless you

Name: Jonathan James

Address: 14253 Kassidi Ct

Hermosa

Meeting: City Council Working Section

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item:

Comment:

Anyone who has been in Menards over the last couple of months knows that the mask rule can be enforced. If Menards can effectively enforce masks, why can't the city of Rapid City?

Would certainly make myself and my relatives who are immune challenged more likely to visit Rapid and shop for Christmas.

Name: Ardith Sand

Address: 5202 Pinedale Circle Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

I respectfully recommend voting to approve a mask mandate for our city.

We are rapidly approaching severe consequences of the lax and irresponsible behavior of the citizenry. Hospital staff shortage, PPE that must be used for entire 12 hour shifts, and emotional/spiritual/physical exhaustion will put anyone needing care at risk.

This is NOT a political issue. VOTE in favor of masks!!!

Name: Ingrid Grimes

Address: 25238 Palamino Place, Custer, SD 57730

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Masks

Comment:

Thank you for asking for public comment. Although my husband and I live in Custer, we travel to Rapid City at least once or twice a week for shopping, doctor visits, etc. We have been following the CDC guidelines carefully since the beginning of the Covid pandemic and wearing masks and washing our hands frequently. So far, we are staying healthy. Being in our 70's, we are very aware of the risks to our health from this terrible virus and believe what Dr. Fauci and other epidemiologists are stating that mask wearing protects us and others as well as self distancing and hand washing. It is a tough time and we miss family and friends but we are trying to do the right thing. I hope that the Council will see fit to require a mask mandate to protect us all. Thank you.

Name: Trevor Ryan

Address: 1008 12th St. Apt 1

Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

How is this to be enforced within a business? I do not see that it is the responsibility of private businesses to enforce a city ordinance. I have no issue with posting signage and asking my customers to wear a mask. If they refuse, then are my employees expected to turn them away or face up to a \$500 fine, 30 days in jail or both according to the General Penalty code?

Name: Ken and Dory Batka

Address: 217 Saint Anne Street, Rapid City SD

Owe business in RC also at 2501 W Chicago #11

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

We are in full support of the mask mandate. Our employees have been wearing masks daily since March. We have had no problems, issues or illnesses from our staff. We have had nothing but positive feedback from our customers that they appreciate our efforts to keep them safe. This seems like a very small gesture in the grand scheme of business and life, to make for everyone in our community. Mask wearing benefits everyone and it is simple to do. Haven't we always have the option of no shirt no shoes no service? Why can't we just add no shirt no shoes no mask no service. Thank you for your attention to this.

Name: Rachel Caesar

Address: 3418 Nicklaus Ct, Rapid City SD

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

I am in favor of a mask mandate, and also in favor of penalties.

A public mask mandate is an part of reducing COVID spread, illness, and death, according to public health experts. Even after a vaccine is available to the general public, masking will still be necessary until COVID is mostly or fully eradicated. Masking is not going away until COVID does, which means that communities like ours will be the weak links that continue to lead to COVID spread. Thankfully, they're cheap, comfortable, and don't actually violate my Constitutional rights.

Name: Skyler Hopfauf

Address: 1635 Ennen Dr. Rapid City, SD 57703

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

Please pass the mask mandate. Some of our citizens don't seem to support protecting others so directives are clearly needed. There must be a penalty or it won't work.

Name: Kay Hyde

Address: 4205 Portrush Rd

Rapid City, SD

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask requirement

Comment:

Please pass the mask requirement for Rapid City, this is a no-brainer and we HAVE to do this to protect us all!

Name: Meredith Beery

Address: 4030 Danley Drive

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

We do not want or need government mandating mask wearing. This is not medically helpful, scientifically sound or constitutionally allowed. Respectfully but firmly leave our liberties alone.

Name: Jessica Minard

Address: 2323 Alamo dr

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

I was in CA when covid initially hit. Almost immediately, we had a mask mandate with fines being issued of you were outside without a mask. We had mass lockdowns and told to not leave our homes. The covid case rate skyrocketed. Simultaneously, depression, suicide, abuse, and violent crimes, also skyrocketed. The states with the strictest mask mandates still have some of the highest covid case number and death rates. The masks do not work! This will destroy what's left of our economy, our sanity, and it will not help numbers. If it truly did, then case numbers would be in a downward trend in ca,ny, etc. It literally doesn't work. It can increase other problems by prolonged mask wear, especially for those that are susceptible or have asthma. A mask mandate is not the answer.

Name: Laura Huber

Address: 2437 W Chicago St, Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

I do not support mandated masks.

-Current reported survival rate for people 70 years of age and under is 99%

-Current reported survival rate for people 70 year of age and older is 95%

-These numbers are not detrimental.

-Herd immunity is necessary.

-I do not feel that we should live in fear. I should not be forced to comply with a mandate that violates my freedom. I should have a choice in what I do with my body.

-I feel it is my God given right to breath fresh air without a mask on my face.

-I believe in freedom of choice.

-If a fart can pass through a pair of underpants and denim jeans I'm certain a virus can pass through these face coverings.

-Seniors in nursing facilities have increasingly been exposed to Covid despite their jail-like lock down. They have also been surviving it.

Name: Margie Neugebauer

Address: 24651 Whitetail Ridge Road, Hermosa, SD 57744

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

Hello, I do not live in RC. However, the majority of business we do is in Rapid. We have been isolating and wearing masks since the pandemic began. Both my husband and I are in the at risk category. We are not even hosting our traditional Thanksgiving Dinner hosting our families due to covid. It is very disconcerting to enter establishments in RC and neither patrons or staff are wearing masks or providing hand sanitizer. Some are, but too many are not. Therefore we do not do any significant shopping in RC anymore.

we ask that the Council please implement a mask mandate. We owe this to our children, grandchildren, and especially our educators and health care providers. Society works best when all work for the health and safety of everyone.

Thank you for your consideration.

Name: Don Porter

Address: 1228 Saint Andrew ST, Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask Ordinance

Comment:

Much appreciation to Mayor and Council President for bringing the matter before the Council. The SD Medical Association; all SD health care systems; local nurses, doctors who care for Covid patients favor a mandate / ordinance. I have had 3 children in the RC School System; in-person learning is very important and a mask ordinance will help schools stay open. Now schools are closed, but bars, casinos, other gathering places are wide open. An ordinance may increase local business bc people know ALL places will be safer. Current studies are in wide agreement that masks and mandates reduce spread. Because ordinance is limited it is a small imposition. Finally, this City can feel good about helping vulnerable neighbors, relatives stay safe and healthy. Healthcare providers are working very very hard - we can do our part to help them too.

Name: kristen dirks

Address: 4131 Derby Lane Rapid City SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Commnet

Agenda Item: mask mandate

Comment:

I favor a mask mandate. Please consider a mask mandate to help protect our community. Thank you.

Name: Jackie Rausch

Address: 702 Comet ct

Rapid city S.D. 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

While there is a push of hysteria to mandate a mask requirement for our community there is little science that supports this mandate being the effective in stoping the spread. Studies have proven that the number of people contracting the virus with a mask in is statistically the same as the count of people not wearing masks. This mandate will negatively effect our community by limiting businesses, causing further separation between social interactions and can lead to depression. The benefits do NOT out weigh the risk to our way of life. Our hospital system is not in danger of being over run. We have been able to flatten the curve through personal responsibilities as per the reason CDC push. Our state has been free to work through this sickness and we the people will continue to do our part to keep ourselves, our families and our neighbors safe. We do not want a mandate.

Name: Brandi Christoffer

Address: 5291 Conifer Lane

Rapid City 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

We all want our kids to be in school and I think they've done a good job with having to wear a mask. If we want that to continue then our community needs to do the same. It's not going to be forever. Our National and State leadership has dropped the ball on putting people first and promoting kindness and respect. They aren't listening to the medical professionals who are dealing with this on a daily basis. If a doctor tells you to take a pill that cures your sickness why wouldn't you take their same advice to wear something that will protect you and others from getting sick? It's time we start listening to the professionals.

Name: Deborah Grace

Address: 6625 Dunsmore Road

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item:

Comment:

I am imploring the leaders of Rapid City to establish a protocol for mask wearing in our community. The citizens have not listened to the CDC and cannot at this point be trusted to do the "right thing" while our Governor is failing us. My husband died an unnecessary death in July as he feared going to the hospital and sharing a room with a stranger and being treated by healthcare workers that weren't tested. He was having a heart attack and thought it was a stomach problem. My adult daughter and 4 year-old granddaughter are immunocompromised and that family has to zoom school the other children. This pandemic is real. It is not a red or blue disease. It's time our community begins to take care of its own. Rapid City historically is a place of kindness and generosity. But the refusal to wear masks as a rule in this environment is selfish and cruel. Thank God the bigger stores require them, but it's sadly not enough. Thank you.

Name: Keith Rhudy

Address: 4517 HORSECREEK RD

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Commnet

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

NO on Mayor Allender's mask mandate

Name: Beverly Gehman

Address: 2044 PROMISE ROAD APT 2419

Rapid City SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mandatory masks

Comment:

Totally disagree with the Mayor and any council members who approve the ordinance for mandatory wearing of masks. And the fine is totally ridiculous! How are you going to get the Indians to wear the masks and pay the fines for not doing so?

My sister lives in Dundas MN, south of Minneapolis, and I just talked to her about their mandatory masks and how it's working. They have had mandatory wearing of masks for a long time and their numbers are still rising.

So what's the point? If businesses require masks be worn, that's fine.

Name: Cheryl Adamson

Address: 521 Neel St, Apt 103

Rapid City, Sd 57703

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: required masks

Comment:

I do NOT support a requirement to wear masks. May physicians and people who are qualified to have an opinion state they do NOT make a difference. SD is proud of our independence.

Name: Mary Tyson

Address: 2508 Crown Hill

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item:

Comment:

I see I am late for the meeting tonight on the mask mandate. However I will still comment. I am strongly in favor of a mask mandate. I see wearing a mask as a personal responsibility of mine as a citizen. It is being respectful of our health care workers, older citizens (of which I am one) and other public workers who don't have a choice to stay home. The more everyone wears a mask the more normal it will feel.

Mary Tyson

Name: Ariel Napier

Address: 715 Farlow Ave

Rapid City

SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Masks

Comment:

Since City Council cannot make laws how would a mask mandate or "code" be legally enforceable? Tenhawkins stated they cannot legally enforce them because they are not laws and they still need to go through proper channels to become laws.

So please explain to me how you can enforce a mask mandate from a legal standing? I don't care when you reply I'd just like an answer.

Name: Brian Feiler

Address: 2010 Monte Pl. Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type:

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

If masks were really effective, how is it that the cases in Hawaii, Miami-Dade County, California and the Philippines (just to name a few) have seen cases spike after a mask mandate. If you feel a mask will protect you and it gives you some security than wear one; however, don't take away my right to not wear one. Are you going to enforce that those same masks get washed and sanitized on a daily basis too.

Name: Hank and Joyce Whitney

Address: 1209 Bluebell Lane

Custer SD 57730

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Requirement

Comment:

We favor a more stringent mask requirement. We are frequent visitors and believe a stronger mask requirement, plus adherence to other CDC guidelines, would make Rapid City safer and encourage more visitors. You would also set an example for surrounding communities which, in the past, have followed your lead. Thank You.

Name: Linda Kay Zachow

Address: 346 N th Street

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Commnet

Agenda Item: mask mandate

Comment:

I live in Custer and like many of us west river/Hills residents make many trips to Rapid City. Work(retired), doctors appointments or shopping for what is not available in our small towns. I have watched the Covid numbers rise steadily from late summer in Pennington Co. and All of our West River/Hills area. and now a rise in deaths. As a retired RN from RCRH (now Monument Health) and for all of us I encourage you to vote for a mask mandate. Why do you think we medical people wear masks in surgery, isolations rooms and around persons that are immune compromised. Thank you. Linda Zachow

Name: Amy Sazue

Address: 2710 Red Cloud St. Rapid City SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item:

Comment:

I strongly support a mask mandate in Rapid City. It is a simple thing that we can do to protect our community, especially our vulnerable populations such as elders, houseless relatives, and those who are immune compromised. It is apparent that our community needs a mask mandate to be respectful and responsible for everyone who lives here and make our community a safer place to live during a pandemic. As a Sicangu/Oglala Lakota woman who owns a home here in Rapid City I have seen the devastating affect this pandemic has had on people that I know. The Indigenous communities have lost beloved elders and fluent Lakota language speakers that both live here in city limits and travel from nearby reservations for basic shopping needs. It is literally dangerous to shop here in Rapid City. Please help us make Rapid City a safer community with a mask mandate.

Name: Terry Pechota

Address: 1617 Sheridan Lake Road, Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: mask mandate

Comment:

Just wanted to convey my opinion that we should have a mask mandate requirement in Rapid City.

Name: Mylie Cottingham

Address: 2429 Judy Avenue

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

Thank you so much for having the courage to face what is certainly a controversial and unpopular topic. I'm all for anything we can do as a community to help our citizens and our healthcare providers fight this pandemic. I hope you pass a mask mandate.

Name: Robert Hoebel

Address: 4200 Marino Drive, Rapid City SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mandatory Masking

Comment:

Mayor Allender,

I would strongly suggest we do not mandate mandatory mask wearing, as it has been proven to only be 66% effective for three hours, to either protect the person wearing the mask or those coming in contact with the person wearing the mask. The problem is that it people a false sense of security and do not have to social distance. It is obvious that the masking does not help when both teachers and students are wearing masks, yet still get Covid-19.

Now we have the issue of enforcement. Any covert activity like body cameras, snitching on others, or policing is going to cause outrage. Some will feel because they are wearing masks so should everyone and there would be community disturbance over it. Also, don't the police have better things to do that to monitor Covid-19 Masks

Thank you for considering all the Consequences in your decision.

Name: Shari L Bradstream

Address: 22800 Spruce Drive

Box Elder, SD 57719

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

Dear Council,

This mask mandate discussion is unnecessary and is extraordinarily abusive of my rights as a citizen of the state of SD and a customer to all Rapid City services areas for these reasons:

- 1) I am an adult and know my limitations
- 2) I understand CDC guidelines and practice them daily
- 3) I do not need city officials to dictate rules and policies to me as I am not a child who needs her hand held by an authority figure
- 4) This is an attempt to strong-arm individuals to comply with more redundant procedures that is NOT condoned by our Gov. Noem and state guidelines
- 5) Masks are not the answer

<https://www.meehanmd.com/blog/2020-10-10-an-evidence-based-scientific-analysis-of-why-masks-are-ineffective-unnecessary-and-harmful/>

- 6) COVID increases are due to more testing, not mask-wearing

Thank you,

Shari L. Bradstream

Name: Leah Herron

Address: 129 Bengal Dr

rapid city. sD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Commnet

Agenda Item: Masks

Comment:

The latest Danish study specifically examining the effectiveness of masks in the spread of Covid 19 shows that they do not help the spread. Therefore, I ask that you vote not to have a mask mandate here in the city. I am to live here as we have not moved forward on rules that have no real value. Let's keep it this way,

Name: Marvin Buehner MD

Address: 5515 Barberry Circle

Rapid City SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

I have practiced medicine in Rapid City since 1993 and I am extremely concerned about the capacity of our medical community to manage the rapidly escalating corona virus pandemic. Our resources are currently stretched to the max in terms of hospital beds, ICU beds, and an increasingly sick medical work force. Due to inaction in South Dakota we have among the highest rates of new infection, test positive rates, and deaths per 100,000 population. The AMA, the CDC, the WHO, the South Dakota State Medical Association, and the physician medical staff at Monument Hospital have all called for a mask mandate in our community, state, and nation. This simple measure has been shown around the world to help reduce infection rates and costs virtually nothing. Its implementation should be no more burdensome than that of the smoking ban, and represents no more than citizens being required not to harm others. Please enact a mask mandate immediately.

Name: Sharon Ella Papineau

Address: 1265 Range View Circle Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Masks

Comment:

I am against wearing a mask. I resent the city council telling me what I can wear. I can guarantee you that I will not shop at any store during the holidays that require a mask. If the stores close, so be it. I will only go to a grocery store but as far as Christmas shopping, that will not take place at all. This is against my constitutional rights and coming from California, I moved here for freedom not restrictions. Besides that, I have seen the people put on masks with their germy hands. They haven't washed their hands before putting the mask on. I went to a dinner, had to wear a mask, people then put their masks right on the table by the napkins when eating. How many germs were jumping around the table at that time? God gave us a face, not to cover it up. It is up to you but there are a number of us citizens who decided not to shop until the mask mandate is removed.

Name: Paulette Kirby

Address: 1501 Centre Street

Suite 102 and 106

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

Please consider an immediate mask mandate.

As an medical health care provider in the community, I understand the research and rationale of masks and handwashing with infectious conditions. As a society, it is not long ago (1950s) we realized the benefit of handwashing. A medical provider noted that when doctors washed their hands before surgery, his patients did not have as many infections or deaths. An individual should not be able to make a decision about wearing a mask in a public health crisis when the outcome is potentially harmful to others or self. This is the reason we need effective leaders in our community and in societies.

it is appropriate to have a mask mandate. I value your leadership in this community.

Name: Stephen Bailey M.D.

Address: 1815 West Blvd Rapid City SD 57701

Spbailey22@gmail.com

Meeting:

Comment Type:

Agenda Item: Mask ordinance

Comment:

Please pass the proposed mask ordinance. It is a basic common sense measure supported by abundant science data.

Name: Trevor Wendt

Address: 13732 47th Ave W

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: mask mandate

Comment:

If masks worked, we still have kids in school. Areas having lockdowns and mandates already would not have rising cases either. It's fall, and flu season. Danish study shows masks are ineffective. CDC study shows; In addition to causing "maskne" and skin infections on the face and around the mouth, persistent coughing, "mask mouth," and respiratory illnesses including lung infections, it turns out that most everyone infected with COVID-19 "always" wore masks, according to a newly published study by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. The study found 74.2% reported wearing masks "always" while 14.5% wore masks "often," or 85% almost always wore masks. It is difficult not to conclude that wearing non-surgical cloth face masks or face coverings does little to prevent contracting the coronavirus. I am a high risk person and will not wear a mask as it increases the chances of picking up this virus, on top of other health issues.

Name: Doreen Harter

Address: 961 Bar Five Ranch Rd

Rapid City SD 57703

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

We are all adults and we don't need city officials making decisions for us when it has been proven the mask "do not work"!! It gives people anxiety and causes other health issues so when you do this what are those people supposed to do?

Name: Halie M Anderson

Address: 320 Minnesota St

Rapid City SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

I would strongly encourage voting in support of a mask mandate. I am an asthma/allergy doctor for RCMC and I am married to an ICU doctor at Monument health...we are seeing first-hand that our healthcare resources are being stretched beyond their limits. While masks are certainly far from perfect and the pandemic will continue, regardless, we should not let perfect be the enemy of good. These are unprecedented times and we need to do whatever we can to slow the pandemic and if wearing a mask limits even a handful of people from acquiring the virus, I think it is well worth it. In an ideal world, we would all do what is right for the good of society without mandates, but that has proved to be too ideological during these divisive times. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Name: Cory Carter

Address: 3645 Sturgis Rd., Suite 200

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: mask mandate

Comment:

[https://www.instagram.com/p/CHwarCwhO\\_l/?igshid=1xznrom1poeuh](https://www.instagram.com/p/CHwarCwhO_l/?igshid=1xznrom1poeuh)

Name: Cindy Cooke

Address: 419 Kansas City St

Rapid City SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask

Comment:

If you want to wear a mask that is up to you. I don't want the government telling me I have to. I agree with many doctor's that say they are not doing any good. (It's the science behind it) I see many people wearing them now, so why are there so many Covid cases?

Name: Bradley Bailey

Address: 4270 Cliff Drive

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mandatory temporary mask mandate

Comment:

To our City Mayor and Council Members, I'm humbly asking that a temporary mask mandate be put into place for the safety of our citizens. Up until now, we have abided by our governor's opinion on not having any type of mandate in the state or city, and we are now in the worst shape since the pandemic started - not just in the nation, but the world. I have friends in other countries asking me what is wrong with our state and local governments. Please, it's not much to ask for a temporary face covering mandate, through the holidays at least, to attempt to get this outbreak under control. I know personal gatherings will take place, which we cannot control, however we can do as much as we can to get people in our community to wear masks through the holidays. Thank you so very much for your time and consideration.

Name: Patricia Jones

Address: 1502 Minuteman Dr Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

Sioux Falls passed a city wide mandate and Rapid City should do the same. We are fighting an invisible virus that is making some people spreaders, some sick and some die. My husband and I are recovering from this virus and I wouldn't wish it on anyone. We must do something to stop the spread by requiring everyone to mask up or face a fine. It's a mask, not a shut down. If we don't institute this mandate the day will come when we will have no choice but to shut down. I'd rather we all wear a mask and continue to go to work and shop then wreak havoc on our economy. Please pass this mandate. We are recovering from this virus this goes around, we may not be so lucky should we get it again because some people are being uncaring and irresponsible. Thank you.

Name: Laurie Eaton

Address: 9634 Deerview Rd.

Piedmont, SD

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Commnet

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

I do not agree. People have a right to choose. Once you make a mask mandate, when does it all end and what will be next. I do not agree. I do not live in the city but I shop and work there.

Name: Trevor Powell

Address: 14140 Wagon Train Lane

Piedmont, SD 57769

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

I realize that my address is a Meade County address but I work and do all my business in Rapid City so I felt compelled to voice my reasoning for vehement opposition to this clear violation of our civil liberties. I do not believe that a mandate does anything other than cover the council and Mayor Allender's backsides! Data shows, and South Dakotans have proved, that we are more than capable of making our own risk assessment and choosing when and where to don the masks. I hope that sense and appreciation for the full value of our civil liberties will out weigh the fear of the virus or fear of reprisal from the vocal few, and the council and the mayor will make the correct choice and abstain from joining the nanny state. Please please vote down this mandate and focus on actual issues that need your attention. Thank you for your time and I look forward to seeing the correct decision soon.

Name: Constance Ming

Address: 4878 Rainier

Black Hawk

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask mandatory

Comment:

Thank you. I believe it is important to have this in place. I work in the retail field and I have seen some come in with masks and some without.

I have also been hearing about some of our outside sales customers having Covid in their workplace. I am considered an essential employee. I don't want to get the virus.

Name: Jade Johnson

Address: 2001 Promise Road

Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

I am strongly against the mask mandate. It should be personal choice and not government authority dictating this decision. I don't think local government should be overseeing people's medical and health choices. Until there is more studies done on how effective thin paper masks or bandanas or whatever people choose to wear, half the time improperly, I don't think we should be required by the city to do this. Also if you do plan on passing a mask mandate, do you also plan on providing masks for the community that you are forcing to wear? No of course not this falls to business owners and personal expense to cover the cost of an item that you will require and possibly fine people for not wearing. This should remain a personal choice issue, not a government regulated one.

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: Sherrie Nutter

Address: 6600 Long View Rd; Rapid City SD

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

Please consider keeping our city of Rapid City a "Freedom of Choice" city. Please do not pass a mask mandate. Please let the people decide. Most people are wearing masks anyway. Let it be The People's Choice, no mandates. A mandate moves us so far away from our freedoms in this great city we take pride in having.

Name: Meghan Knowles

Address: 618 Stumer Rd. Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

I am asking you tonight to vote for a mask mandate.

The CDC, the WHO, the NIH, the American Medical Association and the SD Medical Association have all come out in favor of masks and have told us that masks work to help stop the spread of COVID19 in our communities. The science is clear.

Seeing how our health care workers are the only ones standing between us and a complete breakdown in our medical system, we ought to start listening to them, too. Even if you think COVID19 is a hoax or less serious than the experts are telling us, you cannot deny the black and white numbers of the increase in hospitalizations and ICU beds being occupied. If you think you are immune to COVID19, you are not immune to the everyday illnesses and accidents of life. If there are no beds or nurses and doctors to staff our ICU beds, what will happen if you or a loved one faces a catastrophic illness or accident that requires this type of care?

Name: Amanda Oaks

Address: 2802 WISCONSIN AVE

Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

I'm encouraging the members of city council to vote against mask mandates. Why impose policies you cannot enforce? This is a placebo effect--a sort of hey we tried approach. Many studies have shown that places with mask policies are still having spikes. It's flu season! Let's stop this charade, and continue let people decide for themselves. What is the end game here? How will we ever get out of masks, otherwise??