

Name: Debbie L Renner

Address: 1007 Rosilee Lane

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

Please put a mask mandate in place for indoor public places. We need to do all we can to save lives and protect our healthcare workers.

Name: Karen Nottingham

Address: 15 Marquette Dr

Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

Everyday I watch the news and my anxiety level shoots up because of the rapid rise of Covid 19. We need to have a mask mandate to start gaining control of this pandemic. I feel that spouting nonsense about individual freedoms regarding wearing masks is foolish at this point. Don't tell me about its like the flu because it's not. Its 120% worse. We all need to work together to stop the spread of this virus. Have empathy for our fellow men. In the long run it will be better for all. What's the difference with No Shoes No Shirt No Service? Just add No Mask No Service. I'm 71 with Diabetes and CKD. And a compromised immune system from frequent infections. People deciding not to mask up is taking away my right to live. I wear a mask to keep others safe. Be kind and return the favor.

Name: MARIAN GATES

Address: 2529 CRUZ DR

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mandatory Masks

Comment:

Absolute power corrupts absolutely.

Name: MARIAN MCLAUGHLIN

Address: 4811 Pierre St

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

Please consider passing a mask mandate! Numbers are substantially lower in areas where masks are mandated. South Dakota's case numbers and death rates are inexcusable. "Freedom" is obviously not working. It's clear that we can't trust the public to make the right choices because we have some of the highest COVID death rates in the world.

Name: Kellee Miner

Address: 7010 mulberry drive

Summerset, sd 57718

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

I do not feel it is appropriate for the city to create a mask mandate. Individual businesses already have the capability to require masks if they so choose but taking away someone's individual decision on what is best for them is not appropriate.

In addition people can choose to go to businesses that do or do not require a mask. If a person is uncomfortable being in a place that does not require masks, most businesses now offer pickup.

I think you should also consider the mental health of the community. Creating a mask mandate causes unnecessary panic. 8-9 months of not gathering in groups already causes too much stress on people, please don't add to it.

Let me make the best decision for me and my family.

Name: Dorothy Rosby

Address: 2110 Lance Street

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

"Personal responsibility" and "good judgment" are wonderful things when people use them. But everywhere I go, I see people not wearing masks despite CDC recommendations. When your freedom begins to interfere with someone else's health and safety, a mandate becomes necessary. A vaccine is coming. Let's do our best to stay healthy until it arrives. Please pass the mask mandate.

Name: David Holland

Address: 1105 Saint Cloud St

Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

I support a mask mandate until such time as our hospital system deems it no longer necessary. I understand many oppose a mask mandate. But I don't think just saying no to masks is an option. That effectively ignores the plea of our hospital system and is not a responsible decision. Opponents have not provided an alternative that would have any measurable effect on the root problem - hospital capacity. Wearing a mask seemed weird at first but I have gotten used to it. I don't think wearing a little piece of cloth on my face for a month or two takes away any of the freedoms I have as an American.

Name: Joyce Lorenzen

Address: 4833 Mountain Springs CT

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandates

Comment:

Brookings Covid 19 rates are lower than other areas in SD since mandating masks in September. North Dakota's positivity rate is decreasing since the statewide mask mandate on 11/14/20. Kansas counties who enacted mask mandates have lower rates than counties without a mask mandate. Data shows masks work. Covid 19 is a Public Health issue pertaining to a virus that is predominantly spread through the air. Mandate masks city for the next month and then review the data.



Name: Karen Pearson

Address: 1154 Woodridge Drive

Rapid City

SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

South Dakotan's take pride in being common sense, caring people, but a number of us seem determined to be neither. Wearing a mask to prevent spreading the virus and becoming infected is an easy, harmless way to be both caring and use good common sense. The science is very clear-masks work. In Kansas, in early summer, a mandate was passed requiring masks be worn statewide, but counties could opt out of the mandate. Those counties that opted out saw a 100% or more increase in infection rates in the next few weeks, those counties who complied with the mandate saw a 6% reduction. Our medical personnel at every level are stressed to the breaking point, as a result many may be leaving the profession permanently. Bottom line, wearing a mask can protect you and those you come in contact with from being infected with the coronavirus and ensure we have medical personnel to care for us when we need health/medical care in the future.

Name: Ariel Eagle

Address: 1724 Lodge Street

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item:

Comment:

Thank you for bringing a mask mandate to a vote for the City Council. According to the recommendations by medical professionals, masks do make a difference in the prevention of COVID-19. The fact that people are continuing to die, the medical staff is under such distress, and our infection rate is so high in this area, should be reason enough for the vote to pass. Please take that into account when voting for the mask mandate.

Name: Christa Gregg

Address: 23692 Mulligan Mile

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

I support the Rapid City mask mandate

Name: JASON FIELDS

Address: 4502 Sheridan Lake Road

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: NO CC11192-01(539 KB)

Comment:

MASK MANDATES ARE RIDICULOUS! I AM A FIRST RESPONDER AND I AM STRONGLY OPPOSED TO ANY TYPE OF MANDATE THAT INVOLVES PERSONAL HEALTH CHOICES. NEARLY EVERYONE I WITNESS WEARING MASKS NOT ONLY WEAR THEM INCORRECTLY BUT THEY CONSTANTLY TOUCH THEIR FACE AND ADJUST THEIR MASKS. THIS MAKES THEM COMPLETELY INEFFECTIVE, JUST AS I HAVE WATCHED EACH OF YOU ON CITY COUNCIL DO THIS REPEATEDLY. IT IS ALMOST COMICAL TO WATCH THIS GOING ON. IT IS OBVIOUS YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND HOW TO PROPERLY WEAR ONE NOR DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT KIND OF MASKS ACTUALLY PROTECT PEOPLE. DO YOU NOT REALIZE HOW HIGHLY INEFFECTIVE YOU AND THE PUBLIC ARE WHEN IT COMES TO THESE MASKS. STOP OVERSTEPPING YOUR BOUNDS WHEN IT COMES TO PERSONAL INDIVIDUAL CHOICES. MOST PEOPLE ARE WEARING CLOTH MASKS THAT DO ABSOLUTELY NOTHING! THIS IS A JOKE.

Name: Jeremiah Davis

Address: 130 E. Centennial St.

Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

I support a mask requirement for all indoors public places until the threat posed by the Covid pandemic has passed. Thank you to Laura Armstrong and Mayor Allender for pushing this issue to the forefront.

Name: Susan Kelts

Address: 130 E. Centennial St.

Rapid City SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

I am a registered nurse and I am strongly encouraging the City Council to require masks in public places during the pandemic. This is a simple action that will help decrease the Covid 19 cases in our city and state.

Name: Karlen Fields

Address: 4502 Sheridan Lake Road

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: NO CC11192-01(539 KB)

Comment:

MASK WEARING SHOULD REMAIN A PERSONAL CHOICE-NOT A LEGAL OBLIGATION. PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY SHOULD LIE WITH THE INDIVIDUAL THEMSELF NOT ON ANY FORM OF GOVERNMENT. I AM A HEALTHCARE WORKER AND OUR HOSPITALS ARE NOT OVERFILLED AND HAVE NEVER BEEN OVERFILLED WITH COVID PATIENTS. THEY ARE IN FACT SHORT ON STAFF. THE DECISION COMES DOWN TO PERSONAL INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY. THIS IS BUT THE FIRST STEP IN STRIPPING AWAY OUR FREEDOMS. HAVE YOU BOTHERED TO LOOK AROUND YOU?? 99% OF PEOPLE WEARING MASKS DON'T WEAR THEM CORRECTLY NOR DO THEY KNOW HOW TO KEEP FROM TOUCHING THEIR MASKS... THIS MAKES THEM HIGHLY INEFFECTIVE. BE HONEST HOW MANY TIMES AN HOUR DO YOU TOUCH SOMETHING AND THEN TOUCH YOUR MASK AND FACE? IF YOU ANSWER THIS QUESTION HONESTLY YOU KNOW THAT YOU DO THIS FREQUENTLY, AS I HAVE WATCHED YOU ALL DO THIS AT MEETINGS!! THIS IN FACT MAKES THE MASK INEFFECTIVE.

Name: Susan Hudgens

Address: 5875 TIMBERLINE RD W; Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

Thank you to all of the City Council and our mayor who voted to the mask mandate. Please continue to stand firm on this hot-button issue which has regrettably become increasingly political. SD is leading the nation most days in numbers of COVID cases for a reason, and it appears it is because of denial and a failure to recognize what is evident in those states (and countries) who are taking proper precautions. We cannot control the virus, but we can control how we act. People on the frontline are suffering. I have friends who are healthcare workers who are working extra shifts and teachers of my grandchildren who are staying home because they are sick. I appreciate the bravery and stamina that serving on the City Council and Mayor entails, especially now. Please continue to have this safeguard in place as long as it is necessary. I, in all likelihood, owe my life to you. Literally.



Name: Caitlin slebiska-wolf

Address: 942 Copperfield Dr.

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask

Comment:

It is not all right to demand a small child wear a mask. This is America, you are trampling on our Constitutional right. It is up to the person, what they want to do. My body, my health. My child, my choice in the way they are raised. There are several who do not support this. You will lose more votes by trying to make a mandate.

Name: Kevin Spiekermeier

Address: 3726 Serendipity Lane

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

I understand why some people in Rapid City don't want to wear masks...they itch, you can't see people's expressions and it muffles your voice. Some awful, horrible, terrible things. But if you put aside your selfish inclinations, they help to contain the virus in droplets and thus decrease the infections for other people. They do not control, imprison, oppress, nor turn you into a zombie so that the government can read your mind. I congratulate those on the city council that championed the measure to ensure that everyone wears a mask. Let's err on the side of safety; it seems to be working for Brookings. But for those that are still paranoid about government infringement in your life, you can still wear your aluminum foil hat.

Kevin Spiekermeier

Name: Jordan Bender

Address: 3408 E Anaconda Rd. Rapid City SD, 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

It is not the city's job to mandate or enforce this type of behaviour. They should spend their time, efforts, and resources combating actual threats and providing useful services. Without proper mask wear, mask cleanliness and handling, or even the correct type of masks that stop this virus, we are creating laws and fining people while not actually helping combat this virus. We can make the people of Rapid City virtue signal but we cannot make them follow the safety guidelines in a way that will actually help. This ordinance only creates division and an atmosphere of confrontation. The police have more important things to do than constantly answer calls about masks. We should also be careful not to take away freedoms every time the media tells us to panic.

Name: Shalyn McPherson

Address: 5464 Savannah St

Rapid City, Sd 57703

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

Your decision should be based on the public consensus not your personal opinion. Don't hide behind emails that you say are for a mask mandate, prove it! Almost all the people at the council at first reading was against it, including business owners and physicians!

Name: Rachelle Jensen

Address: 3612 Winners Circle

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

I am not in support of a mask mandate set by the City Council with fines attached to this. Making a recommendation that business owners set their own request on masks is what should be allowed. We are still a democracy of which businesses can do their own mandate. Threatening people with fines is totally wrong!! We are adults and we can do this. Thank you!

Name: Deborah Harrowa

Address: 219 Nordby Lane

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

Please vote YES for the mandate so we can move forward and get this virus under control. I am an educator and there is nothing more that I want than to have my students back in school and know we are all in a safe environment. I want to see my mom and dad, who are in their 80's, the most at risk category. We are all tired of this but we need to be smart and think of others at this time. Please vote for the mask mandate!

Name: Christine Fry

Address: 2306 Central Blvd

Rapid City, SD

57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

Please approve the mask mandate in Rapid City. It is proven that masks worn properly like surgical and cloth facial masks covering the nose and mouth work to decrease the spread of viruses like the coronavirus that causes COVID-19. Approving this is just simply the right thing to do during this time of increased spread of COVID-19. Please do the right thing for the most people in our community. Thank you.

Name: Morgan Olson

Address: 2306 Arrowhead Drive

Rapid City, SD

57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: MASK MANDATE

Comment:

Please do NOT PASS THE MASK MANDATE for Rapid City! The government has no right to force people to make decisions for their health. Masks aren't healthy for everyone. We are a free country (or are supposed to be) and people are perfectly capable of making their OWN DECISIONS regarding their health. Plus, masks don't work and cause more infection. You will destroy our community if you pass this, just like all other communities that have restricted freedoms have been destroyed!



Name: David A Boyles

Address: 4549 Candlewood Pl #306

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

We don't need Typhoid Marys infecting those of us who are well, as the masks of the well are not effective against those who are infected, while masks worn by the infected are effective in preventing infection of the well, according to a recent Danish study published 18 November 2020 in the Annals of Internal Medicine.

If for no other reason, the above alone is reason enough for a mask mandate.

Original publication:

<https://www.acpjournals.org/doi/10.7326/M20-6817>

Popular version:

<https://reason.com/2020/11/18/masks-not-very-effective-at-protecting-wearers-says-new-danish-study/>

Name: Sara Bender

Address: Rapid City

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: mask mandate

Comment:

The suggestion of a strongly worded resolution, suggested by at least once council member would likely diffuse many of the issues with the idea of a mandate. If you are going to copy Sioux falls ordinance and dont attach fines and criminal intent with this, or better yet, take a look at Deadwoods recently passed resolution that passed unanimously, it is not nearly as threatening to bodily autonomy as the proposed ordinance is. You represent everyone, not just those that want to force everyone to think and act the way theyd like them too. Not only that, but our "enforcement" officers have much more important things to do, I know \$500 fines are revenue, but have some respect for freedom from medical intervention.

Name: Kiran Kelly

Address: 2309 S Valley Dr Rapid City South Dakota 57703

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

Hello, my name is Kiran Kelly I'm a part of Rapid City Youth City Council. Personally I agree with the mandate. A lot of the arguments against it that I've heard are as follows. The people who want the mandate should wear a mask without needing a mandate. We are, those of us who want the mandate are wearing the masks. The ones who don't want the mandate aren't, and that's the issue. If masks truly to protect other people, we are protecting you and you are not returning the favor. I've also heard what if masks don't work. What if they do? What if masks are protecting those around you from dying. Would that not outweigh the what if they don't work?

The last point I hear most often is I can't breathe with a mask on, what then. If a mask truly prevents you from breathing please stay home during this time. Please pass this mandate I am in complete support of it.

Name: Mica J. Keralis

Address: 4655 Capital Street, Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Ordinance 6453

Comment:

We live in a free society where individual rights come before governmental authorities. The mask mandate is in violation of our individual rights and freedoms. The council should encourage/highly recommend the use of masks, but not mandate them inside privately owned businesses. The SD DOH data shows that for people aged 0-59 years the death rate is the same as the Flu, between 0.13%-0.15%. The council should recommend/encourage elderly and those w/ co-morbidities to limit their exposure to the public; staying home, ordering in, grocery pick up, etc. Leave that up to them, it's their right. Masks will not stop it, as witnessed in multiple states who had severe, economically crushing lockdowns. Their lockdowns and mask mandates did not work. Allow the citizens to make appropriate decisions. Allow privately owned businesses to make appropriate decisions. The council should do the what is right for our individual freedoms.

Name: Juliana Hunt

Address: 23786 Hidden Mine Ln Box 304

Hill City, SD 57745

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate Fine

Comment:

Although I live in Hill City, I visit many businesses in Rapid City. I fully support a mask mandate but I oppose the use of a fine to gain compliance. Having a mandate tells the public that this is a serious health issue requiring everyone's effort to slow the spread through the wearing of masks. Threatening a fine or jail time for noncompliance will likely enrage those who object to the government telling us what to do and cause acts of grandstanding. Let's stress calling upon people to do the right thing instead of forcing people to do so.

Name: David Dlugosinski

Address: 12350 W Highway 44, Lot 1

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

Has anyone on the City Council looked at the Danish mask study?

It found that masks are of very limited benefit.

[click here]==> <https://www.acpjournals.org/doi/10.7326/M20-6817>

Why give people a false sense of security when it is known that the airways in masks, in comparison to a viral particle, are like a garage door to a mosquito.

There are people with various medical conditions that could be aggravated by a mask mandate. One such condition is low-functioning kidneys. Rebreathing CO<sub>2</sub> puts extra strain on the kidneys. There has also been a rise in the number of cases of bacterial pneumonia which has been associated with long-term wearing of masks. It's like wearing an infected petri dish on your face.

Name: Noel Burke

Address: 1919 Central Blvd

Rapidf City, SD

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Masks

Comment:

A mask mandate has been made imperative by the proud, hard-working, independent South Dakotans not wearing masks and demanding their rights not be restricted by government. Two things these people do not seem to understand need to be made clear. First, masks do slow the spread of the virus - or they don't, depending on which comments from social media one chooses to believe. A considerate, caring person (which used to be ALL South Dakotans ) will wear a mask to protect others, just in case. Second, a mask requirement is no different than stop signs and speed limits, all are meant to protect others. You, our City Council, in order to serve and protect your constituents, have no choice but to pass this mandate.