

Name: Mitchell L Loobey

Address: .13090 mission hills loop

13090 mission hills loop

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Commnet

Agenda Item: Covid safety

Comment:

If you knew by wearing flak jacket and you got shot you wouldn't get hurt as bad would you wear a flak jacket if you knew that you were safe by having lightning rod on you would you carry a lightning rod or would you go out and stand in the lightning if you knew that you had just infected your grandparents would you feel bad or would you say well as one kid told me it's all right you can wear a mask Mr but you're going to die just like the rest of us this was in rapid City at Walgreens drug please think of everyone and yourself included

Name: Larry Swanson

Address: 119 Glenshire Ct

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

Please move forward with the implementation of a mask mandate. South Dakota's handling of the COVID crisis is a national and international embarrassment. South Korea, with a population of 51 million people, only has 526 deaths from COVID. South Dakota, with a population of less than 1 million, has had 943 citizens die from COVID. For an example closer to home, I understand that Brookings, SD started mask mandate back in September. At this time, Brookings has the lowest number of total cases in proportion to population. Our community could and should do better.

The effectiveness of a mask mandate stems from the idea that most people will follow the law of their own volition. This in and of itself is enough to make a difference in our community. Enforcement is a side issue saved for those stubborn enough to flout the law.

Thanks for your time.

Name: Brett Trotter

Address: 10107 sheridan lake road

Rapid City SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

How can your mandate, which isnt state law, prevent me from complying with state law, and release others from it?

Like registering your car. State law says what the treasurer SHALL DO. It even lists the exhaustive regulations an restrictions the treasurer SHALL abide and enforce.

YOU dont get to re write state law on a whim.

Name: Tiffany Trotter

Address: 10107 Sheridan Lake Rd. Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

<https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/epidemiology-and-infection/article/face-masks-to-prevent-transmission-of-influenza-virus-a-systematic-review/64D368496EBDE0AFCC6639CCC9D8BC05>

Some suggested findings, but none of the case studies undertaken showed a benefit from wearing a mask, in either HCW or community members in households (H). Offeddu, V. et al. (2017) — “Effectiveness of Masks and Respirators Against Respiratory Infections in Healthcare Workers: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis,” *Clinical Infectious Diseases*, Volume 65, Issue 11, 1 December 2017, Pages 1934–1942, Furthermore, numerous medical experts have attested to the fact that face masks can even be dangerous to one’s health, and they also curtail clear thinking, by trapping carbon dioxide in the chamber of the mask, forcing you to re-breathe it over and over. This depletes your blood of fresh air and the life-giving oxygen component it contains.

Name: Beth Daw

Address: 3638 Hall St

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type:

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

I am very concerned about the city council's willingness for a mask mandate after listening to person after person speak out AGAINST it last week. So I have to wonder who got to you. Who paid you off.??

The act of BREATHING does not spread disease—the odds of that happening are astronomically low. The only reason healthy people are being told to wear a mask is because “they” —the NEWS people --said asymptomatic people can spread it. Even though the WHO said that's not possible.

God designed us wonderfully. The respiratory system is to take in life giving oxygen. EVERY cell in ones body needs enough oxygen to function properly. He gave us an IMMUNE system to fight illness. Covering your face inhibits helper T cells from doing their job. The long term damage we are doing to our kids is downright frightening.

Name: Susan Martin

Address: 1415 Jupiter Ct

Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

As a small business owner and resident of Rapid City, I vehemently oppose a mask mandate.

Name: Beth Brekhus

Address: 4218 Westview Estates Drive

Rapid City SD

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

I support the original mask mandate without the opt out provision. Masks are been proven to be highly effective, we know they protect the person wearing them, they protect others, they're cheap and they don't shut down our economy. If you want to keep the economy open this is the most effective tool we have at our disposal right now and it's so sad to see something so highly effective and cheap politicized. We've tried personal responsibility and have proven that it does not work as we've moved from the bottom 10 in cases and deaths per capita to the top 10 in the entire nation. We are number 1 in the nation for deaths and cases per 100k in the last 7 days. We are 46th in the country for population density. We are better than this. We need leadership to step up and put regulations in place to save lives, protect our healthcare workers, keep our kids in school and keep businesses open.

Name: Cory Ferguson

Address: 13963 Neck Yoke Rd.

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

I support implementing a mask mandate for the following reasons:

1. Masks protect other people.
2. Where masks are used, coronavirus infection rates tumble.
3. Masks keep other people's germs closer to them than you.
4. Some people might never realize they have COVID-19, so everyone should wear a mask when in public.
5. 'Testing alone,' without masks, does not work.
6. Masks aren't perfect, but they are way better than nothing.
7. When a mandate is not in place, many people choose to not wear them, thus a mere suggestion is just not effective enough.
8. Masks help the economy recover. At a minimum, they help an economy recover more quickly than by continuously allowing this virus to linger on. Let's curb it now.
9. Masks are a defense against lousy social distancing.
10. Our local healthcare system is currently stressed and maxed to capacity.
11. #1 reason – You don't want to potentially harm or kill other people

Name: Chris Shannon

Address: 3420 Champion Drive

Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item:

Comment:

Government has NO business regulating businesses or homes regarding masks. If a local business wants to require masks to be worn so be it... that's the business's choice. It's our choice to enter those businesses. Enough with the control or effort to control!

Name: Peggy Vidal

Address: 223 Alta Vista Dr

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

Please vote yes on the mask mandate and implement it as soon as possible. Science is the only way to save lives and it's a simple request to wear a mask. I will support our businesses and feel comfortable shopping if there is a mask mandate. Let's keep our stores open during this important revenue season. A vote for masks is our way to also support our very dedicated health care workers. Thank you.

Name: Sandra L Grout

Address: 4724 Edgewood Drive

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mandate Masks

Comment:

Please vote to Mandate Masks for the good of All of our citizens.

Science and facts have proven that Masks will help stop the spread along with the CDC requests.

We can't afford to lose more lives merely because some of us are selfish.

Vote YES.

Thank you,

Sandra L. Grout

Name: Troy Corneliuson

Address: 6515 Kimberly dr.

Black Hawk sd

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

Should the people of Rapid City be forced to wear masks?

ABSOLUTELY NO!!!!!!!!!!!!

There is no proof that wearing masks prevents transmission of a virus.

Proof of this is in the cities that have mask mandates and still have recurring covid cases.

If individuals want to wear masks that is their right, but forcing people to do so with no verifiable proof that it is effective is irrational and bordering on unconstitutional.

Vote NO on this mandate.

NO ONE WILL FORCE ME TO WEAR A MASK

Name: Heidi Sato

Address: 7545 Crossbill Circle

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

I am in support of a city-wide mask mandate, but honestly we shouldn't have to have one. It's sad that people are so selfish and won't do something so minor as to wear a piece of cloth on their faces to help out one another. I don't understand why masks are where they draw the line for their "freedom" and why science and the medical community are now the enemy. It's completely ridiculous, and because of them, we absolutely need to have a mandate. Many more people will die or have long-term health issues from Covid if we don't. If Covid would affect only the person not wearing a mask, that would be one thing, but it doesn't work that way. Masks need to be mandated.

Name: Jesse and Heather Sporrer

Address: 24 Nebraska St., Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

We are in favor of a mask mandate. When the public cannot ensure a safe environment, the government must step in. Unfortunately, we are to that point (and have been for quite some time). As the Mayor has previously stated, this is no different than a smoking restriction and draws similarities with being required to wear shoes and a shirt into a business or speed limits or many other restrictions necessary for a safe environment. We further need this to protect our healthcare system. Our healthcare workers and frontline workers cannot continue in this situation. We cannot continue to send individuals in need of medical care out of state. We want to keep the schools open. In order be able to do any of these things and many more, we must have a mask mandate.

Name: Christine Jones

Address: 1331 Village Drive Apt 101

Rapid City, SD. 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

I wish to support the City Council to mandate mask wearing in public. Our bodies are no different from the bodies in any other state or country. We are all susceptible to the COVID-19 virus. We must take the action that has been proven to help reduce the spread of this virus. In this way we will all diminish the suffering in our community. It will also help to manage the material and human resources and to get our economy get back on track in a shorter period of time.

Name: Dowell Caselli-Smith

Address: 916 Franklin St, Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Requirement

Comment:

I am 79 and take my health seriously and I really enjoy many activities offered by our city and the Black Hills. I would rather not be a burden on family or community. A person openly breathing Covid laden breath into my masked face is an assault. If they urinated in my cup of coffee I would feel much safer. (I hope this isn't taken as a challenge or invitation!). Far too many people are in grocery stores (one of the few places I go) without a mask. They are knowingly endangering me and the workers in the store. Then, they have the idea they should attack me for wearing a mask!--this did happen to me. Please, end this madness. The Kansas study shows masks have a real impact. Risk management is one role of governments. As is often said, "Your freedom to throw your arms around ends at the tip of my nose." The same goes for potentially Covid laden breath. I want the freedom to move about my city.

Please vote for mandatory masks.

Name: Susan Hey

Address: 312 N 40th St, Rapid City, SD, 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask mandate/resolution

Comment:

Dear Council Members,

Thank you for your thoughtful work on the question of a Mask Mandate or Resolution. I am in support of the Mandate. As we saw at the last meeting, many citizens are not willing to even honor the wearing of the masks in public buildings as requested. A resolution will mean little. Because it is not forever, this Mandate might help us save lives and could give us a safer shopping season as businesses strive to survive.

Thank you,

Susan Hey

Name: Marie Hermanson

Address: 4306 Vinecliff Dr

Rapid City, SD 57703

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

I oppose the mandatory mask mandate. I would ask that you please suggest that our Community wear masks when requested by businesses, but that you do not implement a mandate. I have 3 young daughters that have a very hard time breathing while wearing a mask and do not feel that mandating a mask is beneficial for their immune systems. Masks are not the answer!

Name: Martina Kilburn

Address: 1094 Sitting Bull Court, Box Elder

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: 1,2,3

Comment:

Saying NO to the Ordinance and Resolution. Our family does everything in Rapid City even though we do not live there. Planned on moving there, which also could depend on whether this passes or not.

Mask are hindering our toxins that we breath out to be eliminated, we are breathing them back in. A 4 yr. Old boy in Ohio almost died, and both the emergency and pediatrician both said that the damage to the lungs were from wearing the mask.

We must be able to make our own decision about wearing the mask. And if they work those who wear them are already protected, so why force them on people that want to protect their health as well. This is a power grab , it has nothing to do with Covid. I will not move to a tyrannical City.

Name: Hans Moore

Address: 5490 Barberry Circle

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

The virus first hot spot was in a Seattle Washington Nursing Home then quickly blew up in NY, NJ and New England. Not having any idea or experience in how to control the virus spread the immediate results were horrible mostly in NY and NJ. Shut downs, isolation, mask mandates and travel restrictions were put in place individually by state or community with huge differences of results as indicated by the chart below. When you compare NY with its 20 Million + population, 1000's of apartments and massive mass transit travel compared to wide open Midwest states it's so obvious that they are doing lots of things right. Asking everyone to wear masks is so little to ask and such an easy way to help everyone help everyone. Masks and group size limitations are the proven easiest method to slow things down till the vaccine is readily available next year. South Dakota can do better.

Name: Rhoda Burrows

Address: 326 Tamarack Dr., Rapid City

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

Mayo Clinic just came out with a new study verifying dozens of others - that MASKS SAVE LIVES and help prevent the more severe cases of COVID that can cost individuals \$100,000 or more per case - and our city millions of dollars in lost wages, lost taxes, public health costs. Asking citizens to protect each other to fight against a common foe - a virus, is the least we can do, and a simple step that harms no one!! Please vote for the mask mandate to protect the people who put you in this place of responsibility.

Name: Jim Moore

Address: 5490 Barberry Circle

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

62,829,641 cases World Wide 13,385,494 cases United States 11-29-20

1,461,049 deaths World Wide 266,887 deaths United States 11-29-20

US is only 4% of the World Population but 19% of the World's Covid 19 cases

SOUTH DAKOTA is Number TWO in America for POSITIVE CASES per capita

SOUTH DAKOTA is Number NINE in America for DEATHS per capita

As of 11:00 AM Today

STATE	POSITIVE CASES	DEATHS	CASES/100K POPULATION
Texas	1,225,624	21,850	4227
California	1,216,856	19,152	3080
Florida	992,660	18,500	4622
Illinois	720,114	12,882	5683
New York	641,161	34,561	3296 (hit 30,000 deaths 6-3-20)
New Jersey	334,114	16,978	3762
Washington	162,700	2,703	2137
South Dakota	74,973	946	9032 (Number TWO)
North Dakota	79,252	933	10400 (Number ONE)
Oregon	74,119	905	1757
Delaware	35,251	770	3620
New Hampshire	20,516	526	1509
Hawaii	18,138	244	1281
Maine	11,757	194	875
Vermont	4,172	69	669

Name: Dave Asher

Address: 5408 N 32nd St

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: 2

Comment:

Despite the virtue signaling by some proponents of mandatory mask-wearing, some professionals say they are not effective. So who do you trust?

<https://www.meehanmd.com/blog/2020-10-10-an-evidence-based-scientific-analysis-of-why-masks-are-ineffective-unnecessary-and-harmful/?fbclid=IwAR206wTjShaAUDdzxt5QUWSuxrxezT0F57M71rdkCU5fb-rnTTpij4A8Rlc>

Name: Nolan Schroeder

Address: 208 Ray Ann Court

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item:

Comment:

Hello, I have tried to contact my two council members in Ward 5 to express my thoughts and concerns regarding the proposed mask mandate.

I strongly urge our council to consider a resolution recommending the wearing of masks in all indoor public spaces as opposed to the mask mandate ordinance passed at the previous special meeting.

The previous ordinance is not clear when masks are required and what is more troubling, is those who are in violation of it can be jailed for 30 months as it is written.

We need to encourage responsible behavior while also respecting individual liberty. Furthermore, the resources and time of those charged with maintaining public safety should be focused on our community's most critical issues that have established law and enforceability behind them as opposed to being reduced to the mask police.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration on this subject.

Name: Michael C Loos

Address: 2026 HARNEY DR, RC, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: 6453

Comment:

I write to express my strong support for the proposed mandatory mask ordinance. It is a non-intrusive, common sense response to an extraordinary problem in our community. This is an issue in which political leaders, including Council members, should defer to medical experts. I would challenge any opponent to contest the recital that "the CDC and the vast majority of medical professionals are recommending

the use of face coverings by the public to slow the spread of COVID-19[.]" How does the debate not start and end there? I would add that growing evidence is clear that mask wearing works to reduce the spread, and properly enforced mandates are effective. A health crisis should not be a political issue.

Name: Alexandria Potocki-Nichols

Address: 27585 SD Highway 79

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate in Rapid City

Comment:

The people know what's best for themselves and their families and shouldn't be forced against their will and against their freedom to wear a mask.

People from all over the country are fleeing to South Dakota because our Governor allows the people the Freedom to do what's best for them and their families. There is not one right solution for everyone.

Medically I cannot wear a mask or anything on my face. I am pregnant and need to look out for my baby's health.

How are you going to protect someone like me from harassment if you do a mask mandate? Will I be thrown in jail and fined during these hard times because medically I cannot wear one? Are you willing to break federal and state law that protects people like myself with disabilities from discrimination?

I get harassed constantly and people are very hostile towards me even after I tell them of a medical exemption. Please prevent this madness from getting worse.

Name: Joey Garnette, Sr.

Address: 1210 Milwaukee Street

Rapid City, SD

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Approve 2nd Reading of Emergency Ordinance Requiring the Wearing of Face Coverings

Comment:

I approve of the Ordinance 6453 and the second reading should pass today without arguments and delay. I know masks or other face covers work! I go out to the post office, grocery stores, Walmart, hardware stores, etc., every day and I always wear a mask since March while indoors around people. There are people there who do not wear a face cover and they freely enter my space so I have to quickly leave the area. I don't like this at all! I am a Marine Corp veteran with 2 tours of duty in Viet Nam to my credit. I have some underlying health conditions due to the effects of Agent Orange and this makes me more susceptible to illnesses. So far I have not been sick due to my mask and not getting close to others. But I do want to live my life as fully and for as long as I can. Help me out by doing your part and pass this ordinance that has some teeth in it to protect the lives of all people while keeping the stores open too.

Name: Sandra Fuhs

Address: 4200 E Highway 44 Lot 60, Rapid City, SD 57703

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Covid-19-Mask Mandate

Comment:

PLEASE DO NOT force people to wear masks in all public places. I can not stand to wear a mask for very long because of severe claustrophobia, and I don't think it is fair to be fined for something like that. I get VERY stressed when I wear a mask for a very short time in the few stores I still go to, and I know there must be others like me or people that have breathing problems and such. It is fine for the people that can stand to wear the things--if they want to, that's fine, but I don't think it's fair to force people that have breathing issues or stress issues to wear masks. PLEASE DO NOT pass the mandate.

Thank You.

Name: Crystal Bird

Address: 2520 Distribution lane rapid city

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item:

Comment:

As a vet and medical professional, I have been thoroughly ashamed of America's inability to pull people together during this health crisis. Something as simple as covering our mouths has divided us. I am high risk. I have a husband that works and two children who work. It's not as simple as just stay home. Putting a mandate in place would give businesses that are really trying to protect people a backbone to stand with. You've left them alone with angry hateful virus spreading customers that threaten violence if asked to wear a simple mask. No one knows the story of the person in front of or behind them in line. You are our leaders. For my life and many others, I'm begging you to look at real science and do the right thing. Pass this mandate. Give our health system a break before it breaks completely.

Name: Lesley Wilkinson

Address: 23645 Strato Rim Dr. Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

Please vote to approve the mask mandate. It's a very important component in controlling the spread of the coronavirus. Monument Health is already very stretched and we need to bring down the case numbers so that the hospitalizations and deaths also decrease. Being required to wear a mask is not giving up personal freedom; it's a public health measure like the smoking ban in public buildings and the seat belt requirement. Thank you for your consideration!

Name: Ruby A Fanning

Address: 425 Founders Park Dr

Apt 105

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: mask mandate

Comment:

I am still in favor of the mask mandate. It's important to protect the people of Rapid City. Just asking them to wear a mask is not working. Lets do this for a period of time and give it the best chance we can.

Name: Mary Beth Roland

Address: 2113 Westgate Pl.

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

I am in favor of a mask mandate to hopefully slow the spread of Covid 19 and relieve the burden on our healthcare system. It is plain to see that folks do not take it seriously. It's part of the social contract that we experience minor inconveniences for the greater good. Science is clear that masks help.

Name: Sarah Brown

Address: 537 Ballista Blvd

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask ordinance

Comment:

I urge you to vote no on any mask ordinance on the premise of rising cases and hospitalizations. In fact our cases are not rising, we have peaked and are now decreasing faster than North Dakota that did implement a mask mandate. Passing any ordinance that suppresses liberty based on false information is against 18 U.S. Code 1038 False information and hoaxes.

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:

I'd like to get some proof that our hospitals are "overwhelmed."

What was our hospital capacity this time last year, compared to this year? What about the year before? The 5-year average? What about staffing, how much has that changed over the years? Do we have less personnel in the hospitals this year, compared to previous years, or more?

Don't just tell me hospitals are "overwhelmed." Prove it: Show me the data.

I would also like to know what happens when this mask mandate accomplishes absolutely nothing. Having read the ordinance, it seems to me that the only places that will be affected will be places where large gatherings occur: Churches, theatres, stadiums, arenas, etc..

Nearly every other place I can think of either already has a mask policy in place, or is a place where 6 ft. of social distancing is possible, and thereby exempt from the ordinance. So this ordinance doesn't really change anything. (Part 1)

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:

Please vote YES on the mask mandate. It's such a small thing to do to help our citizens minimize their risk of getting sick with COVID, and to help our businesspeople and their employees stay safe as well. It will allow them to insist that their patrons wear masks, which can only help to keep spread of the virus as low as possible until a vaccine is available. We should all look out for each other, and this is the simplest way to do that. Again, please vote YES!

Name: Nicole Roberts

Address: 709 Lemmon Ave

Rapid City SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

Please as someone who works in the healthcare field, a mask mandate is needed. It's not about fear it's about keeping individuals safe that can't protect themselves. I could go on and on but I digress. Thank you!

Name: Jane G Glover

Address: 2931 Hutt Court

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: mask mandate

Comment:

We are in favor of a mask mandate for a limited amount of time while in stores and/or around crowds.
Al and Jane Glover

Name: Jodi Mockabee

Address: 2460 Carter Dr

Rapid City 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: NO On Mask Mandates

Comment:

Deaths and cases due to Covid are declining. If this passes, and they continue to decline, will the council think this ordinance is the cause?! I sure hope not. States with mandates and lockdowns have no different rates than those who do not have mandates or lockdowns. Herd immunity is the only way this virus will be contained. Not through any lockdowns or mandates.

Also, please change the library to allow medical exemptions for masks!!! Stay cohesive with the ordinance. It's complete discrimination to not provide in person services to those who can't wear masks. I'm so disappointed in our PUBLIC library's response to this issue.

Name: Kris Ellingson

Address: 6871 Greenfield Drive

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

Please vote against the proposed mask mandate. Almost every single store already has taken steps to require them. Do not try to force business owners to do something that should be their choice. Some people cannot wear masks for a length of time for various reasons. Some folks are just plain claustrophobic and can cause a lot of issues for them. A lot of people have already had COVID and are supposed to be immune now. They've already gone through something tough and don't want the added stress. Most businesses have taken steps to care for distancing and air quality. Many businesses are using HVAC systems that break up the virus molecules. Please don't start downhill spiral that some are trying to start in forcing our behaviors. How would you plan to enforce this? Do you have the funds are will they be coming from my taxes?

Name: TINA SAMUELSEN

Address: 3105 WONDERLAND DR

RAPID CITY, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

A recent Danish study in Annals of Internal Medicine indicates that masks make no difference. Even if we accept that they provide some small benefit, it is only if they're worn correctly. I would guess that 99.9% of the population does not. Wearing masks correctly is not feasible or affordable for the average person. Even it was, imagine the environmental damage, not to mention the biohazard issue. How many discarded masks have you seen on the sidewalks and in the trash? The mask is not a harmless piece of cloth. It is a breeding ground of bacteria, a petri dish of pathogens worn directly against the nose and mouth. Dental and skin problems are already being seen as a result. Can an epidemic of respiratory issues be far behind? Maybe it's already here. Please follow the precautionary principle and do not make a policy that has potential to cause harm. P.S. Masks were not a divisive issue until governments began mandating their use.

Name: Krista Licht

Address: 2701 Rawhide Dr

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item:

Comment:

I encourage you to pass the mask mandate. As the number of deaths rise in our state, it is clear that we need to do something to help stop the spread of the virus. Since we are getting no leadership on this matter from state officials, we need to do something at the city level to protect ourselves. Our hospitals and healthcare workers are overwhelmed so passing this mandate is the least we can do to help them. Thank you for bringing this mandate forth and considering science when making your decision.

Name: Trudy Lahren

Address: 24014 Hackney Court

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

I do not feel that City Government should be able to decide for me when and where I will wear a mask. You were elected to your positions to adhere to your constituents' wishes not to impose mandates that blatantly encroach on my rights. It is not up to you to tell me how to take care of my health. I have no problem honoring businesses that require me to wear a mask. That is a business owner's right. In that instance I either choose not to frequent that business or if I do, I wear a mask as requested. That is my choice. It is your choice if you want to wear a mask. The key word here is "choice". Besides the fact that proper wear of the masks and proper disposal are almost never adhered to. Therefore, I ask you to reconsider imposing this mandate.

Name: George Theissen

Address: 211 ENCHANTMENT RD

Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Masks

Comment:

Masks work. That's why you see medical professionals wearing them in hospitals.

No one is hurt by wearing one, and we're seeing deaths every day because people refuse to put on a mask. Everyone needs to think of their fellow South Dakotans and do the right thing. Wear a mask.

Name: Kara Flynn

Address: 3771 IRELAND PL

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

Please pass a mask mandate with enforcement capabilities. Science indisputably proves masks are an effective tool in fighting Covid 19. Decreasing community spread through mask wearing (and social distancing) will enable our schools to be open more and people to staff and shop at local businesses. Our hospitals are full. Staff is exhausted. Vote to protect our entire community.

Name: Aaron Lillebo

Address: 4906 Hansen Lane Rapid City, SD 57703

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

One of the augments in the last meeting stated that businesses needed a mandate to help them. Businesses DO NOT need a mandate to enforce a mask policy. Did Menards need a mask mandate passed by the city council to enforce masks in their store? The answer is NO. Every business has the right to require masks without a mandate by the council. Businesses can choose to require masks, they have every right to refuse service to people that will not wear a mask. The right to refuse service has been in place for a long time. Businesses do no need a mandate to enforce.

I also have a few comments for the council members. Bill Evans, you said that this is about loving your neighbor. Yet your comments at the last meeting were anything but loving. Is this a one way street?

Darla you stated you don't know if it will work or not. So you will try to pass this and guess? Educate. Masks worn improperly are worse than no mask. Vote No.

Name: Eleuterio C Maisonet

Address: 8280 N Star Rd

Rapid City

SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: City Mask Mandate

Comment:

Our family recommends against the City Mask Mandate. The people of Rapid City South Dakota are people of free will. The use of a mask, is yet to be proven affective against the pandemic, common sense has been proven to be far more effective. Sure, if anyone in our family feels any needs for the use of a mask, it should be up to ourselves to use them, not the government. Once we get into the "slippery slope" of having the government dictate common sense to its citizens, is when we start loosing our freedom. Please Vote NO against the Mask Mandate for Rapid City. Elections have consequences and we will never for get this.

Name: Susan McKitterick

Address: 21795 141st Place

Piedmont SD 57769

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

I have a Piedmont address but live closer to the city. I DO NOT WANT TO DIE OR SEE ANYONE ELSE DIE!! Please vote yes for a mask mandate. This pandemic so so much deeper than whose 'right' it is to wear a mask. If you haven't lost someone to Covid or it's complications then you don't know the pain. My mom loses her immunity due to a chemotherapy she has every 8 weeks, so we respect that and isolate 99% of the time and so we choose to stay home. The other 1% we have no choice but to go out. A common cold would attack her so imagine what a respiratory issue would do to her. No, don't imagine, it WOULD kill her. Think about having that fear about someone you love. She also has asthma, but she wears a mask anytime she's out of the house. Sometimes we stop to unloop an ear and catch our breath but we do that safely away from others. Please Rapid City is a welcoming, friendly community, please have a three week mandate to stop the spread

Name: Diana Glover

Address: 405 Founders Park Dr, Apt 102

Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Ordinance

Comment:

I hear "for the people, by the people" on the radio expressing objections to a mask ordinance.

I say "for the people, by the people" to promote wearing masks. Where is the concern for others "for the common good"?

Please pass a mask requirement. Thank you.

Name: Jonathan Lawyer

Address: 18 Saint Francis St,

Rapid City, SD

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Ordinance 6453

Comment:

I feel obligated to write today in support of passing a mask mandate in Rapid City. The council is going to be bombarded by a host of people in opposition to a mask mandate. This is not the general opinion of the city, but a simple loud minority who are willing to expose themselves and others to risk by attending this meeting in person.

South Dakotans are proud of their independence. We say that a catch-all solution does not work in the varied communities across this country. I agree, and Christie Noem's solution to do nothing about a virus wracking our state's hospitals does not work for Rapid City.

The opposition can say, "stay home if you're scared." They can say this but it will not solve our problem. If our medical resources are dedicated to treating CoVid19 patients then how do we allot resources to treat the everyday emergencies?

We must act and I applaud the bravery of the council to pass this measure.

Name: Zsuzsanna McCauley

Address: 3703 western ave

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: mask mandate

Comment:

Please vote NO on any of the mask ordinance and resolution!

Masks do not work. As many mentioned the Danish study and you have probably viewed it by now, it is clear to see why..

However if you are referring to the Hong Kong study, which has flaws, we are NOT hamsters, NOR do we live in a controlled lab environment!

I am a responsible adult who can make an educated decision of my health. I am also a parent, that can make a decision of my children health. Government has no right to tell what I should do with my and my families heath. Governments job is to protect my rights as an individual.

VOTE NO on any of the ordinances and resolution!

Name: Mary Kelley

Address: 1314 7th st, Rapid City, SD 57701

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Commnet

Agenda Item:

Comment:

I am urging the City Council to pass a mask mandate for Rapid City. The citizens of the United States have many rights, but we do not have the right to endanger other citizens. Wearing a mask is easy and may save someone's life.

Name: Jenna Howell

Address: 4235 Portrush Rd Rapid City, South Dakota 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

I respectfully request that you oppose the mask mandate. It's illogical when RCAS is now able to go back to in-person learning. Moreover, the ordinance and enforcement are unclear regarding individuals with existing health issues that preclude wearing masks. I have chronic, pre-existing and non-contagious, respiratory ailments that make mask wearing difficult to impossible. In the American justice system, the burden is always on the government to prove an individual's guilt. But under the proposed ordinance, an individual must somehow prove they qualify for an exception. The ordinance also creates an atmosphere in which those of us who can't wear masks are singled out (which has already happened to me) and actually may encourage people to call the police to report me. The ordinance has a disparate impact on the chronically ill. Anyone who is able can wear a mask now. Please don't punish those who cannot. Thank you.

Name: Don Frankenfeld

Address: 1307 38th Street

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

Please vote "yes" for a mask mandate with teeth. Every City Council vote is consequential, but this time your vote means the difference between life and death. I am seventy-two and diabetic with incipient heart problems. My wife is seventy-three (but healthy). Our son, who lives with us, is a health care worker, and thus exposed to COVID on a daily basis. Our grandson, who lives with us, attends Montessori school daily, and is also potentially exposed. A mask mandate certainly won't save every life, but it certainly will save some. A mandate is an extraordinary measure, and these are extraordinary times. I am depending, perhaps literally, on your "yes" vote.

Name: Melody Gienger

Address: 3214 Leland Ln

Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

I would like to plead with the City Council to disband the mask mandate. We are overcome with fear and the mask requirements are turning people against each other. I want to protect those around me and I believe the majority would agree. I want my children to know how to read another's face, to see their smile and feel reassured. I want them to be able to learn to sense danger by seeing and reading facial expressions. I want them to gain a healthy immunity and not be subjugated to lower oxygen levels, headaches, dizziness and the complications of bacterial infections that come from long term mask wearing. I don't want my children's rights and my rights taken away by being forced to wear something we don't agree with and seen as dangerous! So please, I beg you, do not force us to give up our rights and our freedoms for the sake of fear! Let us make our own decisions!

Name: Haley Powell

Address: 14140 Wagon Train Lane

Piedmont, SD 57769

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

My husband and I both work in Rapid City and so we do out shopping here as well. As a right to each citizen, I don't believe it's the governments right to tell me or my family what I should do when it comes to my decision of what to wear or not wear. It hasn't been proven that masks actually work to stop the spread. Never in history have we told healthy people to stay home, get tested or wear a mask and even doing so, it has still spread, as any virus will do. This has been more harmful than good and by taking the rights away from people is one step closer to the opposite of what our founding fathers intended. Kristi, weather you like it or not, has actually stood on the foundation of freedoms with every care and understanding. Why you wouldn't stand with that is beyond me. And it's not your job, as it was stated in the last meeting, to tell me I have to do my part your way. Thanks for your consideration.

Name: Larry and Mary Feldhahn

Address: 5528 Meadowlark Dr, Rapid City SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Comment

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

We moved here in 2018 because we noted how much more progressive SD was in their outlook regarding numerous issues, particularly Second Amendment, etc. We thought that for the most part, the City "Fathers" (like Governor Noem), had their heads on straight. We have been going out to shop, eat at restaurants and generally supporting the city economy. If the mandate is passed we will do what we've done with Menards, stop going out to shop there! We have the financial ability and resources to order ALL our products on-line from various sources. Our freezers are full, we have a nice home in a lovely Red Rocks neighborhood and do not "need" to go out in public like masked bandits and feeling hindered with our breathing. Read the real science! WE BELIEVE WE HAVE THE RIGHT TO HOLD ONTO TO OUR FREEDOMS AT ALL COSTS!

Name: Marlene Walker

Address: 23577 Camp 15 Road, Rapid City, SD, 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mandatory face masks

Comment:

These are proven to not work and if people feel vulnerable without one then they should stay home or practice social distancing. We need to stop drinking the Koolaid.

Name: Teresa DeGolier

Address: 1721 Copperdale Drive

Rapid City Sd 57703

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: General Public Commnet

Agenda Item: Mask mandate.

Comment:

Please vote for the mask mandate for our city.

Name: Brita Craven

Address: 316 Berry Blvd, Rapid City, SD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: NO on Mask Mandate

Comment:

NO MASK MANDATE. I have submitted extensive information, personal experience and explained why we are against a mask mandate with ZERO response from my Ward. VERY strongly against government making blanket health decisions for private citizens especially when there IS evidence that it causes harm! Cloth masks increase risks and cause added health issues. Masks are filthy just like the human mouth. A few countries have even stopped using them in surgery that is HOW strong the evidence is that they don't protect others. Disagree respectfully if you must, but state clearly why and what data backs you up (not what people or politicized groups, but what scientific evidence that uses humans in the studies support you). Businesses and citizens can make their own mask decisions. Don't get involved in masks and create more empowered bullies creating exponentially more problems, solving none, wasting our hard earned tax dollars.

Name: Lacy Blair

Address: 233 Borglum CT. Box Elder, SD 57719

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

Members of City Council, I respectfully ask that you consider Passing the mask mandate for Rapid City. I was in the process of restarting my massage business in Rapid City when Covid hit. I have been following the data and observing the attitudes of my fellow citizens and "personal responsibility" is not enough to get this situation under control. I have been asked when I'm going to open my business and my answer has always been when our cumulative daily percentage is 5%, Pennington County currently sits at 31%, which is incredibly disheartening. We are a high risk household and alot of my clients are high risk as well, and cannot risk the exposure that my business would create if I were to continue in our current state. Please pass this mandate. Thank you for your time. Sincerely, Lacy Blair, LMT

Name: Anna Keszler

Address: 22930 164th Ave

New Underwood, SD 57761

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

Living in a rural area, Rapid City is the closest town we go to for shopping needs. I urge you to NOT pass the mask mandate, as many of us from out of town enjoy shopping and utilizing businesses in Rapid City. If the mandate passes, my family and many others in my area will be bringing our business elsewhere. This, no doubt, will be hard on Rapid City businesses in the long run. Please allow us to choose whether a mask is something we want to wear or not. Freedoms being taken away in other states is NOT something I thought I'd see in my very own state, let alone a town surrounding my rural area. Thank you for taking the time to read my comment and carefully considering this topic.

Name: Michelle Edoff

Address: 16455 Highway 1416

New Underwood, SD 57761

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Proposed mask mandate

Comment:

I am a mother of 4 and diligent about making healthy decisions for my family - physically, financially & otherwise. A mask mandate would not only be a direct abuse of governing power, but also an unnecessary deterrent for families of surrounding communities that typically pour into the financial support of Rapid City businesses. If you choose to enact a mask mandate, my family will stand with many others in taking our business to other communities which uphold their support of freedom for people.

I urge you all to reject any mask mandates. I urge you to continue allowing businesses to make this choice for themselves. I urge you to allow people to make a personalized choice on what is best for themselves and their families regarding face coverings. Lastly, I urge you to support the local businesses of Rapid City by rejecting any further financial strain a mask mandate would add to an already stressful year they may have had. Thank you.

Name: Bill Young

Address: 726 Payton Court

RCSD 57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask Mandate

Comment:

I applaud the efforts of our city government to impact the spread of COVID-19. Our state wide numbers are climbing dramatically. I fully support a city wide mask mandate. This is a reasonable, and rational decision that should be easy to make. Do the right thing. Lead.

Name: Jan Mangelsen

Address: 3975 Moon Meadows Dr

Rapid City,S.D.

57702

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: Mask mandate

Comment:

Thank you again for your efforts regarding the mask mandate. I know that you are receiving alot of negativity and pressure and I appreciate your courage in your efforts to protect the public. Please continue to advocate for the mask mandate. You have my prayers in this regard.