Name: Serena Andersen
Address: 506 E Van Buren St, Rapid City, SD 57701
Meeting: City Council
Comment Type: General Public Comment
Agenda Item:
Comment:

I read about 6 people facing charges for setting up a homeless camp with teepees, and refusing to leave when confronted by police.

Those six people were Righteous. They were providing shelter for people in need, and I agree wholeheartedly that they were within their rights to set up those tents on land that was stolen from them in the first place. They weren't hurting anybody - they were only helping people - and you arrested them for that.

Those teepees/tents take up less space and cause minimal environmental damage compared to structures and pavements developed by the city and government "with permission" from yourselves.

Our current system of governance is despicable if people need permission to live, and if police will arrest people for helping each other. I am sick of these iniquities in the world that our governments are creating; for making us feel so small and powerless.
I believe it can be difficult for elected officials to lead with the Declaration of Independence intentions. The Declaration of Independence says that government has one primary purpose; that of protecting the unalienable, God-given rights that all human beings posses. The Declaration states: That, to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men. ... Not all governments recognize this all-important principle.
I would like to thank the five council members who voted not to table the mask mandate. I wish that those who voted to table it would have made a different choice as it was a compromise. It seems that the citizens who ignored the directive to wear a mask in the building were awarded for their behavior.
I am horrified to learn that the city council tabled the mask ordinance after much consternation and public comment. This is an abdication of the council's responsibility to protect the public. Pat Jones and Ron Weifenbach should be ASHAMED of their part in tabling the ordinance. The ordinance was already watered down to effectively null and the council cannot even follow through on that intention? I am appalled. All evidence from public health experts and epidemiologists points to the effectiveness of mask usage + sanitizing + physical distancing. People are dying and our public servants do not serve the public. I will remember this when I vote.
Comment:

I feel the city does not or is not regarding the safety of its citizens. With the holiday season here - I have held off on my shopping to see if I would feel safe shopping in Rapid City -- but as the city/council does not feel there is a need to protect shoppers I will let my fingers do my shopping this year and use the internet -- There are many commercials on tv about shopping local and I did think about it -- but this year is different and if the city/council is not concerned about my safety as a shopper -- I do not feel the need to support the community as my health and safety are important to me. Wearing a mask is not that hard and it should not be that difficult of a decision when there are lives at stake.
According to the SD Department of Health the COVID cases in Pennington County spiked on November 11th, with 231 positive cases, and as of December 5th, there are 42 positive cases. The Seven Day average spiked on November 13th at 143.57, and is now 89.14. Out of 40,866 people tested, only 9,407 were positive, and 7,389 have recovered. So as of December 5th, there are only 2,018 people in all of Pennington County that are currently positive with the virus. Covid only accounts for 18.6% of our hospital beds. In the whole state there are only 503 cases of hospitalized patients.

Masks are being used as a tool to bring people into compliance with an agenda that is at this point still unclear. If these types of demands are made on the citizens of Pennington County, this city will no longer be a place people want to come to. It will be a city run by tyrants and not public servants.
Name: Phyllis Boernke
Address: [Redacted]
Rapid City SD 57702
Meeting: City Council
Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item
Agenda Item: Mask Mandate
Comment:
I support a city-wide mandate requiring masks be worn in all public places including government buildings, restaurants and bars, hotels, movie theatres, grocery stores, doctors offices and private shops and businesses.
Name: Zsuzsanna McCauley
Address: [redacted]
Meeting: City Council
Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item
Agenda Item: mask mandate
Comment:
Table the mask mandate ordinance. It has no real grip!
The bullying has already started against businesses speaking out against the mask mandate.

Some of the council members themselves are taking the stance to participate in the bullying even on their official FB pages! You know who you are! Voters will remember when its time to vote you out. Shame on you! Bullies!
Comment:

The whole mask thing is a bunch of bull. It has been said by people in the medical community that they don't work. Look at the statistics and the science of it by looking at other states that have done the mandates and the shutdowns. IT DOES NOT WORK! The whole thing is fear based. There was an article from the president of the company that creates the tests and he says the virus is blown way out of proportion and its really no worse than the flu. People that are over 65 or have a compromised immune systems are most vulnerable. It goes back to common sense. You don't feel good don't go to work. You don't feel good don’t go see grandma. Be smart that's it.
Comment:

Any mask edicts and decrees by your vaulted royal highnesses will be summarily ignored - if not openly rebelled against - by many people.

Any edicts made against the free exercise of commerce in Rapid City will be taken as coercive force, intent on ruining the livelihoods of our citizenry.

Many of these people will take the opportunity to identify those who would transgress against them, and take note.

There are a lot of very, very angry people, and these actions you are taking are - seemingly intentionally - derisive and inflammatory. Wisdom should be exercised in how you would like the citizens of this city to view its government.

Any other attempt to circumvent the will of the people - such as installing a despotic tyrant like Allender as the City Manager - to push the agenda through, will be similarly rejected.
Before the herd instinct and groupthink kicked in around May, Dr. Fauci, the CDC, WHO and most experts admitted masks were ineffective at stopping viral spread. Dozens of studies from various organizations worldwide have repeatedly concluded the same thing.

Despite current attempts to silence, intimidate and punish anyone who says anything contrary to herd groupthink, the facts of what I've just cited are still available on the internet for anyone intrepid enough to seek the truth.

Let's stop acting like sheep. Let's start thinking and treating other people with the respect due to fellow citizens born free in a free nation.

Let's not waste our time trying to force our fellow Americans to perform silly, desperate acts of superstition that they don't believe in--and the real-world data backs them up on that.

"Live not by lies." - Alexander Solzhenitsyn
Name: Jeffrey Clark
Address: [redacted]
Meeting: City Council
Comment Type: General Public Commnet
Agenda Item: Mask Mandate
Comment:
Hello,

Please do not pass the proposed mask mandate. I truly believe this 2 option method will only continue to divide our community. Separating masksers from non maskers.

The facts are out there for all to see, masks don't slow the spread. One look at New York or California shows you that they don't work. This is an emotional decision designed to help ease the fear of others, not to actually prevent the spread of the virus.

Again, please do not pass any of the proposed mask legislation.

Thank You.
Name: Janet Mohl
Address: [Redacted]
Rapid City, SD 57702
Meeting: City Council
Comment Type:
Agenda Item: Mask Mandate
Comment:
NO on a mask mandate. As a fifth-generation resident, I'm GREATLY troubled to witness the conduct from 9/10 council members toward our community. A list of local businesses not requiring masks was published deeming them “hazardous”. A discriminatory comment referred to sitting in the same room for 3+ hours with “those” people. Another, assumed we haven’t read the ordinance. Let's not forget the two council members that wanted to limit the time for all speakers. When church’s were written into this, all confidence & respect for this council was lost. That stunt demonstratively demonstrated your true intentions. Further, this council is succeeding in creating DISSENTION & divide within our community. The role as a mayor, is to unite our community, not create a further divide. I implore ALL 9 of you to climb down from your high horses & put aside your bias's in order to effectively work with ALL the public. THAT is your job. Do it.
I urge you to vote no on ordinance 6454! Leave it up to the people to make the choice regarding their bodies and their health! There are several laws that protect citizen’s rights, including:

(1) You are sovereign over your own body and can choose what medical interventions you want to participate in.

(2) You must have informed consent to participate in any medical EXPERIMENT or TRIAL (such as mask wearing or being tested -- because they have not been approved by the FDA and therefore experiments.)

(3) Under the PATIENTS BILL OF RIGHTS, you can deny one offered intervention while still being able to receive other treatments.

(4) Your right to privacy is guaranteed by the 4th Amendment of the Constitution.

(5) No government order, city order, school or work policy can require you to cause harm to yourself as masks, testing and vaccines do.

The science says healthy people should not wear masks! Masks do not protect against viruses!
Comment:

I oppose any type of mask ordinance. If one is passed, and at the end of it, no evidence has proved that it worked, what will happen? Will we stretch it out longer? Will we then step up to enforced lockdowns? Or admit masks didn't do anything?

If businesses want to have a "no mask, no service" policy then they can do so. The proposed ordinance is ridiculous.

Still no proof that masks of any type, especially cloth masks, work to protect the general public. Yet plenty of data to show other states with mask mandates showing no evidence the mandates worked to slow the spread.
Comment:

As a retired New York ICU Registered Nurse I am so appalled at the lack of CDC recommended protective suggestions Rapid City is unwilling to mandate. With SD’s highest in the nation infection rate and death rate on a per capita basis it is unfathomable that we are not even close to putting in a proper effort. Really! I thought the hospital beds are keeping up only because so many covid patients end up dieing but I heard today that SD hospitals are freeing up rooms by sending patients home with oxygen bottles to make room for the incoming covid patients. At some point the city may find it having some liability in the lack of protection they have voted not to provide our citizens and health care workers. This ordinance does not do enough but approve it then consider initiating a stronger position as the future is bleek.
Good evening. I saw on FB last week a sitting council person who made a list of business owners from the mask mandate meetings and put their names on FB calling for a boycott of their businesses. After researching these businesses, I found they encourage masks, but won't make masking mandatory in their buildings. I am shocked and dismayed that an elected official would go to such petty and immature lengths to "cancel" small and local businesses! If my 7th grade daughter slandered and bullied a classmate on social media I assure you she would experience serious consequences. As a parent I would not tolerate such maliciousness, and I am not tolerant of it on my city council either. The hatefulness, boycotting, and the social media bullying needs to stop. It begins with YOU. Be leaders and stewards of kindness, not snitching and bullying. Now is the time to lift each other up. Set the example for our community. Thank you.
Name: Brita Craven

Address: [redacted]

Meeting: City Council

Comment Type: Public Comment Agenda Item

Agenda Item: NO on Mask Mandate

Comment:

Strongly oppose Mask Mandate. Masks are a one size fits all medical intervention that does have health consequences for the wearer, you are not licensed medical practitioners. Asymptomatic spread is quickly being proven non existent. Mask Mandates create exponentially more problems, making the solution worse than the initial problem. Your current mask mandate proposition has already empowered local bullies. Workers from Monument Health are declaring online without authority some businesses Non COVID safe, practicing economic warfare and social bullying, both of which make citizens untrusting and afraid of seeking help from health practitioners. We want to know if any of the city councilmembers created, administer or participate in any of the Facebook Non COVID safe bus groups. While giant companies thrive local businesses are under great strain. The division and stress you empower through this mandate is destructive to our city.