

## Young, Bernie C

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**From:** Kimberly Joly <kimberlyjoly2@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 13, 2020 1:40 PM  
**To:** Seel, Karen; Gerard, Pat; Long, Janet C; Burton, Barry; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Peters, Kathleen; Welch, Kenneth  
**Subject:** [BULK] Vote to End the State of Emergency  
**Attachments:** NY Times article.pdf  
**Importance:** Low

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Hello Board of Commissioners,

My name is Kimberly Joly, a resident of Largo. I have sent you several emails, submitted comment cards for your Board meetings, and have spoken during the Public Comment time, requesting your action on the State of Emergency. While I appreciate that the discussion last week led to a possible vote on ending the mask mandate, that is not far enough, nor soon enough.

If you are going to base your policies on the number of positive cases or the positivity rate in our community, then you should have a better understanding of what makes a certain individual test positive for Covid. When a PCR test is done (the common nasal swab), the sample is tested in a lab based on a sensitivity rate. It has been determined by leading experts in this field, that anything beyond 30 cycle threshold (CT) indicates viral artifact and leads to false positives. As you will read in the following noted article of the NY Times, "The C.D.C.'s own calculations suggest that it is extremely difficult to detect any live virus in a sample above a threshold of 33 cycles." And yet most labs in the United States use the threshold of 37-40 cycles. This results in 40-90% false positives and an increase in positive case loads. I've attached a copy of this article to this email for your records as well. You can also ask Dr. Cho and Dr. Jamerson to expand on this topic.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/08/29/health/coronavirus-testing.html>

According to this second article, "Correlation between successful isolation of virus in cell culture and Ct value of quantitative RT-PCR targeting E gene suggests that patients with Ct above 33–34 using our RT-PCR system are not contagious and thus can be discharged from hospital care or strict confinement for non-hospitalized patients."

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7185831/>

The bottom line is, our government is basing policy decisions, imposing restrictions, spending millions of taxpayer dollars on hypersensitive testing causing a mirage of positive tests that, under any other circumstance, would not be considered positive. I implore you to stop this madness! End this state of emergency immediately, lift this mask mandate, and allow business to reopen completely.

Thank you,

Kimberly Joly