From: Denise Molina
To: Eggers, Dave
Subject: Resident Input for Upcoming BOCC Meeting and Feedback Regarding Previous Meeting
Date: Monday, September 14, 2020 11:37:00 AM

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Dear Commissioner Eggers,

I hope this email finds you well. First and foremost, I want to thank you for your calm, level headed approach to this pandemic. I know that appropriately handling the county's response has been a very difficult task. The purpose of my email is to provide feedback regarding the most recent BOCC meeting. We appreciate your efforts to try to put an end to the mask ordinance or at the very least provide residents with a clear understanding of what it takes to end the mask ordinance.

I am very concerned about the BOCC's approach to COVID19 in regards to what it will take to end the mask ordinance and allow businesses to operate fully. I feel that the initial goal, to slow the spread of COVID19 as we were seeing a high spike in the county, has been lost. The mask is not a cure for COVID19, however it appears many of your colleagues are under this impression. Simply put, whether you have a mask on or not you are potentially at risk of getting COVID19. Similar to the flu, at some point everyone will either be exposed or experience the virus.

Commissioner Gerard requested that when analyzing the data from county's with and without mask mandates population size and demographics be taken into account. Unfortunately, that would not be a proper approach to analyzing this virus as there are many inputs that can change the output (i.e. - comorbidities, race, genetics and so on). The most appropriate approach should be to identify the following trend: Is there a clear spike followed by a downward trend in positive COVID19 cases in each individual county from July 1st to September 1st?

After the trend has been identified you can compare the county's with mask mandates vs those without mask mandates. I have done this and it is evident that regardless of whether the county had a mask mandate or not there was a clear spike followed by a downward trend that occurred during the specified time period in all 67 counties in Florida. The theory that masks may help slow the spread of COVID19 is not completely false, however based on the analysis of the actual data comparing county's with mask mandates to those without it proves that regardless of whether residents are wearing masks or not the virus hits a peak and then quickly trends downward.

I implore you to review the following study that was conducted: https://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2020/07/herd-immunity-coronavirus/614035/

A summary of the article is that COVID19 appears to have the following characteristic: it comes into a population, rapidly uses up all of its susceptible hosts (asymptomatic people are not considered susceptible hosts as they do not experience and spread the virus as those who have symptoms), and then COVID19 quickly trends downward in regards to both deaths and

positive cases. This has already happened in New Zealand, China, Italy, Spain, New York City, New Jersey and Connecticut, to name a few. Currently, if you review the data for Florida, Arizona and Texas this same trend is occurring.

The above is not a suggestion to do away with all COVID19 precautions but as supporting evidence that now is the time to remove certain restrictions, such as the mask ordinance. I feel the longer the mask ordinance is put in place the more likely residents will be under the belief that masks prevent COVID19 and more chaos will ensue once the ordinance is lifted as residents will now be in fear for their lives. The mask ordinance cannot stay in place forever as that was never the intention of it and it will need to be removed at some point regardless of where we are at with our approach to COVID19. When people are given a choice to do something for the greater good oftentimes the response will be positive from most people, but when people are forced to do something it typically generates a negative and conflict driven response.

The conflict driven response is without a doubt happening in our community. For example, I truly do have a medical condition that exempts me from wearing a mask. On a few occasions I have been verbally assaulted for not wearing a mask. The BOCC placed those exemptions in the ordinance for legitimate reason, however many have either not read the ordinance in totality or do not care. While many have been understanding of individuals who cannot wear masks there are just as many that have no tolerance for it. It is creating a very divisive atmosphere and the longer this ordinance stays in place the more division amongst residents will occur.

We are respectfully requesting that the mask ordinance be removed and the wearing of masks be made a personal choice. Please place more focus on individuals being responsible for their own health rather than relying on others to protect them. I appreciate you taking the time to review my email. You are doing great and please know that you are supported by many even if it does not feel that way at times! God bless!

Respectfully,
Denise Molina