

From: [Daniel Tyrrell](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Cc: [Moke Simon](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 6/16/2020 Board Meeting Agenda Item 7.4 - Urgency Ordinance
Date: Sunday, June 14, 2020 1:28:12 PM

For the Public Comment Section for the June 16th, Lake County BoS Meeting

Re: Item 7.4 - Urgency Ordinance

To the Lake County Board Members:

I am strongly in favor of the proposed urgency ordinance in order to preserve public health. While we in Lake County have had very limited exposure to COVID-19, I believe it is because of our relative remoteness and our adherence to the CA Shelter in Place orders. As we begin to re-open our businesses, it is imperative that public health remain the priority.

When discussing the use of masks for the benefit of public health, I think it is vital to separate the facts from opinions. The WHO, US CDC, State of CA Public Health, and our own local public health officials highly recommend the use of wearing masks while in public; this is on top of maintaining social distancing in order to reduce the spread of COVID-19. These organizations receive their information from scientists who work in the field of epidemiology and have their work peer reviewed by other scientists. They don't get their information from Youtube videos or conspiracy theory internet blogs. They are presenting science to the public in an effort to save lives. It would be arrogance in its highest form to minimize their recommendations. Wearing masks reduces the spread of the infection. This is an irrefutable fact.

I understand that there may be some medical exemptions prohibiting the use of masks for a small number of our residents. These people represent a very small percentage of our population. While accommodations must be made for these people, I think the public at large should be mandated to wear masks for the safety of others while in public settings. Most who refuse to wear the masks are doing so because they feel they are uncomfortable, feel that they don't work, or just don't want to be told what to do. These people make arguments that they saw some Youtube video with a "doctor" who said that masks don't work, or "if you are elderly or sick then stay home," or if "you are scared stay home but it's my right to go out without a mask (and possibly infect you.)" I remember similar push back when the CA seat belt laws were established; 35 years later, seat belts have been proven to save lives and people have pretty much stopped complaining about their use. The difference between seat belts and masks is that the seat belt protects the individual wearing it; a mask protects the people near the person wearing it. Wearing a mask is an act of selflessness and thoughtfulness that we all need to practice as a community to keep others safe, and all people regardless of their age or ability should feel safe enough to go to frequent our businesses.

The public as a whole can select to not support local businesses that do not enforce the mask use order. I can choose to shop elsewhere and have the means to travel to Sonoma County, where the mask orders are more widely enforced. However, that isn't possible for many of our most vulnerable residents. Many of our elders, those who are economically disadvantaged, and those who are disabled do not have the means to travel outside of the county to shop in areas where their safety is put into greater consideration. Furthermore, it seems counter-productive to allow businesses to re-open with a large percentage of the population either

taking their dollars out of county or reducing their shopping because they do not feel safe. Locally, many businesses have placed placards at the entry to their stores stating that masks are required, yet the actual enforcement of this requirement is haphazard at best. Some businesses have a culture which shows that they care about the safety of their employees and their clientele. . Others have shown a top down disregard for the health of the community. Unfortunately, from the outside both business appear to be the same, and the consumer doesn't get to figure this out until they are inside and are possibly exposed. This situation is even more perilous for workers who are unable to get jobs elsewhere in an already high unemployment county going into a recession.

While it should be every store owner's responsibility to enforce the mandate within their doors, it is difficult to do so without the backing of the local magistrate. Voting in favor of this urgency ordinance will send a clear message to your constituents that you care about their health and the success of their businesses. The members of this board have listened to their constituents in the past and have shown wisdom in their decision making process. I am confident, the board members will vote in favor of this ordinance and will continue to effectively represent their communities in the years to come.

Sincerely,

Dan Tyrrell
Middletown Resident