

From: [Mary Ann](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fining Businesses for Mask Violations
Date: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 8:52:51 AM

I find it unbelievable that you would even consider imposing monetary penalties on businesses that are already struggling to survive in these trying times. I understand that you want to give "teeth" to your ordinances, but monetarily punishing businesses that are barely holding on as it is irresponsible and potentially devastating to our already weakened economy. If you need teeth, how about assigning community service instead - though I disagree with the mask requirement. Everyone understands that COVID-19 is serious. Enforcing masks is not going to prevent anything when 90% of the people who wear them don't wear them correctly, or are reusing one-time use masks to the point where you can see visible wear and stains, thereby rendering them useless. They also give people a false sense of security, making them think it's okay to stand closer to strangers.

Most of the community is conscientious about trying to keep their distance, but having the mask on makes some of them think it's okay to not stand 6 feet away. I also don't understand the doubled up precautions of wearing a mask PLUS standing behind a plexi-glass shield when dealing with customers. Is the virus so powerful that it can cut through a solid barrier? Why are we not trusting the community to make informed choices about their health and safety? By trying to enforce the mask requirement, you're telling the public you don't trust them to be responsible about their health and the health of others. Imposing penalties and enforcing masks has opened an opportunity for groups of people to appoint themselves as the Hysterical Persecution Committee. These people have taken it upon themselves to act as some sort of "tattletale" mask enforcers. Who knows what extreme tactics they may take when non-mask wearers aren't dealt with as swiftly or severely as they would like? We don't need this in a time when tensions are already high due to sheltering-in-place, racial conflicts and a growing poverty rate. As a community member and a supporter of small businesses, I ask that you don't impose monetary penalties on businesses that violate an ordinance that takes away the communities' right to make health and safety choices for themselves.

Mary Ann Doud