

Letter from OCLA to Mayor of Kitchener and Waterloo Regional Council: Mandatory face mask policies have no scientific basis, violate civil liberties, and must be rejected

From: Sean Strickland <SStrickland@regionofwaterloo.ca>
To: Joseph Hickey | OCLA <joseph.hickey@ocla.ca>
Subject: Re: Letter from OCLA to Mayor of Kitchener and Waterloo Regional Council: Mandatory face mask policies have no scientific basis, violate civil liberties, and must be rejected
Date: Sunday, June 28, 2020 9:03 PM
Size: 29 KB

Thanks for writing Joseph. I agree with you and do not support this direction. I just don't think passing a bylaw will be enforceable unless we spend more dollars hiring enforcement officers, money that I would rather spend on direct public health supports. Ontario's medical officer of health and the region's medical officer of health do not recommend mandatory use of masks since the evidence is not clear that such use limits community spread. I would much rather emphasize social distancing and hand washing than passing a bylaw that can't be enforced and causing disharmony and conflict in the community over wearing a mask. It would make far more sense for the province to mandate this than local governments.

I also see your point about infringing upon civil liberties and really do wonder if my colleagues would be so quick to rush this in if we did not currently have a declared state of emergency. This issue and several others have been rushed through without due process under the cover of COVID and is causing me great concern.

Thanks for sharing your views.

Sincerely,

Sean

PS if you would like to register as a delegation to share your views via a zoom meeting I can send you the info to do so. I think it would be fantastic if you and/or a representative from your organization could attend. Thanks again.

Sean Strickland
Regional Councillor

Sent from my BlackBerry — the most secure mobile device — via the Bell Network

From: joseph.hickey@ocla.ca
Sent: June 27, 2020 7:53 PM
To: JErb@regionofwaterloo.ca; KRedman@regionofwaterloo.ca; larmstrong@carizon.ca; elizabeth.clarke@ywca.on.ca; SFoxton@regionofwaterloo.ca; TGalloway@regionofwaterloo.ca; MHarris@regionofwaterloo.ca; DJaworsky@regionofwaterloo.ca; HJowett@regionofwaterloo.ca; KKiefer@regionofwaterloo.ca; GLorentz@regionofwaterloo.ca; KMcGarry@regionofwaterloo.ca; JoNowak@regionofwaterloo.ca; SShantz@regionofwaterloo.ca; SStrickland@regionofwaterloo.ca; BVrbancovic@regionofwaterloo.ca
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Ontario
Civil Liberties
Association

Dear Mayor Vrbancovic and Members of Waterloo Regional Council:

Please find attached a letter from the Ontario Civil Liberties Association (OCLA) re: "Mandatory face mask policies have no scientific basis, violate civil liberties, and must be rejected".

Please provide us with your responses so that we can inform our members and the public.

Yours truly,

Joseph Hickey, PhD
Executive Director
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