

Masks statement by Councilor Danko

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Hello

I am writing in reply to your statement regarding masks.

Firstly, we can agree that while the city's medical officer takes one stance, there are many other studies showing the opposite- that masks do not provide enough protection to be made mandatory as a preventative measure and other measures such as hand washing and staying home if you are ill are the top ways to prevent spread. There are also studies showing the rapid decline of the virus is happening like most other winter bugs, due to uv light exposure in the northern hemisphere during summer months and humidity making air born particles struggle to "float" around. The other flaw in the arguments now is we did not have mandatory masks for the previous months, and now see a steady decline in numbers despite people visiting stores and people outside their home.

While your use of information showing the "need" for masks, as well as that of the city and media, you have all failed to be objective, showing the studies and stats of a "non need" or lack of protection from masks, which to me, invalidates the entire argument. This is no longer an argument of medicine or "science" but now propaganda. If we are not discussing all facts and stats and are using them subjectively only to "prove" our view, it's malicious and undermining the freedom and liberty of the general population and their ability to act on their own accord, under their own discretion, as adults, making choices for themselves after being provided BOTH sides of information objectively. So unless you want to state you think the general population is too stupid to think for themselves, this whole idea needs to be reconsidered.

I would like to remind you, and the city, including the Mayor, of the chartered rights we have as Canadian citizens, and that they do not just disappear when a certain portion of the population become fearful. My rights don't end when your panic or fear begins. And while "emergency measures" can be brought in, just like other real laws, they won't be followed by everyone and this is a waste of time when we have other issues that should be focused on.

To each their own. People can wear a mask if they decide and feel it provides protection to themselves and others. The mandatory mask holds less value than the responsible thing to tell the public which is to STAY HOME IF YOU ARE SICK OR BEEN EXPOSED TO THE VIRUS. Why should I have to cover myself if I am healthy? Why should I have to protect myself from others who are careless and do not choose to stay home? Why does my life have to drastically change due to the laziness or disrespect of others who may be ill? You have no problem telling me to "do my part" and to "think about others" when dictating to wear a mask, but not state I have a right to leave my home and wear what I want and enjoy my life and liberty and should not have to worry about the person who is ill and not "doing their part" or "thinking of others" when knowingly being in public when ill or under investigation and pending covid results. Ontarians saw last month as our own Health Minister Christine Elliot visited a Toronto area LCBO while UNDER INVESTIGATION for COVID. But she was wearing her mask, so it was okay, right? This is the very non sense these mask laws are promoting. That it is OK to leave when ill.

When we look at illness prevention, diet, hygiene, and stress load are the top indicators of a person's chance of getting sick outside uncontrollable factors such as underlying disease, compromised immune system etc. Many people have been forced home from work, limiting their financial resources. Making healthy eating harder and making unhealthy stress eating more prevalent. The stress from media propaganda (constant messaging, showing deaths and illness numbers repeatedly, fearmongering, etc) and political failure to properly deal with the virus from the start (closing the border, identifying most vulnerable and providing protection, containing hot spots, etc). Most families and individuals are stuck home, isolated, increasing their stress load. From these things alone, we can see how the health of individuals has already been put at risk from the virus without getting the virus due to the government and media's actions. Stress from the unknowing, closures of stores, "new normal" propaganda messaging and gaslighting is causing extreme levels of stress on people's immune systems. The number of cases cannot even be truly viewed as knowing the true seriousness of the disease due to the factors stated above.

Each country has its own population with health issues, socio economic issues and health care systems which factor into the infection and death rate and susceptibility of the general population. How masks work here or there is not so id due to all the differences. If anything, a herd immunity is needed. If we push a vaccine for a herd immunity, allowing natural immunity should be no different. Why are we pushing to restrict breathing and oxygen flow to stress the body more? And now threaten people and tell them they can't access services and necessities of life if they don't comply?

Perhaps, to meet in the middle, if we feel the need to penalize a portion of the public, perhaps we instead issue tickets to those who knowingly enter the public while sick. But does it end there? What else do we start enforcing and ticketing for? What other rules and laws come from this? Because the people didn't care about the mandatory masks or penalizing those who didn't conform to the pandemic rules, where does it start or end. Why do we need to tell grown adults to NOT COUGH ON OTHER PEOPLE? Maybe we do need to reexamine the intelligence of the public if in 2020 we are having to tell people to wear a mask because they lack the general reasoning skills to know to cover their mouth when they cough and not cough at others.

Which leads me to another point. Your argument is somewhat concerning in the aspect of how you view the public at large , specifically the point of watching what others are doing. How my life decisions or those of the public should be dictated by what others are doing. That the government and officials are pushing a herd mentality. A group think. That I should not question the behaviour or actions of others or the government . Should I see what others are doing? Should I worry if I look goofy and dictate my life decisions based on how others view of me? This is why we have the dumpster fire society we do, because of groupthink. This statement leads you walking a dangerous line when you wish to dictate rules and encourage the general public to decide to not think critically for themselves and instead leave their own reasoning or ability to evaluate and decide based on information, and not view the consequences and results of their choices, and to instead need to be told what to do, or do "what everyone else is doing". We call this a "Nanny State". This is exactly why I am opposed to this mandatory mask law and any other law or rules that threaten individual liberty .

I am hoping that there are people on council and within the municipal government who are still able to think for themselves and wish to allow others to do the same. I have provided some links below for those who do wish to educate themselves on both sides. I am open to discuss both the medical points of the masks , and also the issue of civil liberties , either together or separate entities as these are separate issue but also one .

Thank you

Sarah WP



Groupthink :

<https://www.ishn.com/blogs/16-thought-leadership/post/103990-the-dangers-of-groupthink>

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/ca/basics/groupthink>

<https://www.latimes.com/archives/la-xpm-2004-jul-10-na-groupthink10-story.html>

Masks and COVID:

<https://www.rcreader.com/commentary/masks-dont-work-covid-a-review-of-science-relevant-to-covid-19-social-policy>

<https://www.mdlinx.com/article/5-viruses-more-dangerous-than-the-new-coronavirus/7wQzXjJudXjqZVb8eU6LL>

<https://globalnews.ca/news/6503722/coronavirus-death-risk/>

<https://www.headspace.com/blog/2017/08/15/shallow-breathing-whole-body/>

<https://medium.com/@vernunftundrichtigkeit/coronavirus-why-everyone-was-wrong-fce6db5ba809>

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