

Councilmember introduced the following resolution and moved for its adoption:

RESOLUTION #20-163

DEMONSTRATING VALUES OF KINDNESS AND RESPECT DURING UNPRECEDENTED TIMES

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death, is caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which is a new strain of coronavirus that had not been previously identified in humans and can easily spread from person to person. The virus is spread between individuals who are in close contact with each other (within about six feet) through respiratory droplets. It may be possible that individuals can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or eyes; and

WHEREAS, on January 30, 2020, the International Health Regulations Emergency Committee of the World Health Organization declared the outbreak of COVID-19 a public health emergency of international concern; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's Executive Order declaring a State of Emergency for the entire State of Minnesota urged all citizens to heed to the advice of the Department of Health and other emergency officials regarding COVID-19 in order to protect their health and safety; and provided education to local governments and residents including social distancing, hand washing, quarantining when symptomatic and

WHEREAS, the CDC has advised those that have possible or confirmed COVID-19 to stay home from work, school, and away from other public places; and

WHEREAS, a local and statewide State of Emergency continues to exist with limits on mass gatherings and requirements of physical distancing; and

WHEREAS, As the World Health Organization (WHO) states in their [interim guidance](#) on masks: "At present, there is no direct evidence (from studies on COVID-19 and in healthy people in the community) on the effectiveness of universal masking of healthy people in the community to prevent infection with respiratory viruses, including COVID-19." and

WHEREAS, The National Academy of Science [wrote](#) in April: "There are no studies of individuals wearing homemade fabric masks in the course of their typical activities" and added, "The current level of benefit, if any, is not possible to assess." and

WHEREAS, Dr. Mike Osterholm [says](#), the "highest frequency of mask-wearing" was in Hubei, China and it "didn't make a difference." He also emphasizes, "if you don't have an N95 [mask] you're not protected." One of Dr. Osterholm's concerns is that those at risk of severe COVID disease will *assume* the mask gives them a level of protection they don't have and thereby put themselves in harm's way.

WHEREAS, Governor Walz has issued executive order 81 pertaining to face masks contains five types of exemptions, three of which are governmental exemptions; and

WHEREAS, Governor Walz has issued executive order 81 pertaining to face masks contains penalty with financial hardship for individuals and businesses.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RAMSEY, ANOKA COUNTY, STATE OF MINNESOTA, as follows:

- 1) That business in Ramsey have struggled in these times of Covid-19 restrictions on businesses and with new mask regulations will have to turn away customers who are not able to wear a mask.
- 2) That Ramsey continue with focus on education of individuals and businesses for safety of all residents regarding social distances, hand washing, and quarantining when experiencing symptoms per individual medical direction.
- 3) That we encourage the Governor to lift his EO regarding wearing masks due to its detriment to Ramsey businesses
- 4) That business in Ramsey be allowed to post the follow declaration to protect those business customers who are not able to wear a mask
- 5) That the City of Ramsey values kindness and respects the rights of all and treats all residents equally. No person who is unable to wear a mask for medical reasons shall be discriminated against and due to HIPPA and the 4th Amendment cannot legally be asked about their medical condition.
- 6) That all persons within the area of the City of Ramsey limits is encouraged to be considerate of physical distance of at least six feet of separation from non-group members, and regularly sanitize/wash hands.

The motion of the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Councilmember _____, and upon vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof:

and the following voted against the same:

and the following abstained:

and the following were absent:

Whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted by the Ramsey City Council this the 28th day of July, 2020.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk