

Councilmember introduced the following resolution and moved for its adoption:

RESOLUTION #20-163

DEMONSTRATING VALUES OF KINDNESS AND RESPECT DURING UNPRECEDENTED TIMES

WHEREAS, SARS-CoV-2 is novel strain of coronavirus that had not been previously identified in humans and causes COVID-19 (coronavirus 2019) a respiratory/vascular disease that is mild with no symptoms for most people but results in serious illness or death for others, and

WHEREAS, the SARS-CoV-2 virus is thought to spread easily when individuals are in close contact with each other (within three to six feet) through respiratory droplets or aerosolization of the tiny 0.125 micron virus. (Experts say people may get COVID-19 by simply breathing the air or by touching a contaminated surface or object and then touching their own mouth, nose, or eyes); and

WHEREAS, on January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) [declared](#) the outbreak of COVID-19 a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC); and

WHEREAS, the Governor's Executive Order [20-01](#) declared a State of Emergency for the entire State of Minnesota and urged all citizens to heed the advice of the Minnesota Department of Health to protect their health and safety; and also provided education to local governments and residents including social distancing, hand washing, and quarantining when symptomatic; and

WHEREAS, the CDC has advised those with 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, the 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 noted harms such as difficulty breathing, skin rashes, and the dangers of self-contamination by failure to use, wash, handle or dispose of masks correctly); 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, two respiratory protection professors at the University of Illinois at Chicago [wrote](#) on April 1: "Sweeping mask recommendations—as many have proposed—will not reduce SARS-CoV-2 transmission, as evidenced by the widespread practice of wearing such masks in Hubei province, China, before and during its mass COVID-19 transmission experience earlier this year. Our review of relevant studies indicates that cloth masks will be ineffective at preventing SARS-CoV-2 transmission, whether worn as source control [protecting others] or as PPE [protecting self]," and

WHEREAS, a [primary concern](#) of former CDC interim director epidemiologist Michael Osterholm, PhD (who said, "if you don't have an N95 [mask] you're not protected") is that those at risk of

severe COVID disease will *assume* the mask gives them a level of protection they don't have (due to leakage and penetration) and thereby put themselves in harm's way; and

WHEREAS, the number of cases continues to rise as they are discovered through increased testing, and this increase is necessary for herd immunity, and the numbers of Minnesota deaths (single digits since July 3), ICU admissions and hospitalizations continue to decline, which Gov. Walz [noted](#) on July 13 makes it "hard to make a case for masks"; and

WHEREAS, on July 22, [Governor Walz's Executive Order 20-81](#) to unilaterally mandate face masks contains five types of exemptions (including three governmental exemptions), which include the inability to wear a mask because it "compromises their ability to breathe"; and

WHEREAS, Governor Walz's EO 20-81 contains penalties for failure to wear or mandate the wearing of masks for employees/customers that were not adopted by the representatives of the people of Minnesota (state legislators) and will create financial hardships for individuals and businesses; and

WHEREAS, businesses in Ramsey have struggled under continuing Covid-19 restrictions, and the new mask regulations may mean turning away customers unable to wear a mask;

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

- 1) That Ramsey continues its focus on education of individuals and businesses for the safety of all residents, including social distancing, hand washing, and quarantining when experiencing symptoms or receiving a COVID-19 diagnosis.
- 2) That we encourage Governor Walz to lift his masking mandate (E.O. 20-81) due to its detriment to Ramsey businesses, its imposition without legislative authority, and its violation of individual rights to breathe and speak freely.
- 3) That businesses in Ramsey be allowed to post the following declaration to protect all business customers who are not able to wear a mask:

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 the requirements of Governor Walz's Executive Order 20-81 (15 (c)) cannot be asked to explain or provide proof about their medical condition.

- 4) 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 the requirements of Governor Walz's Executive Order 20-81 (15 (c)) cannot be asked to explain or provide proof about their medical condition.
- 5) That all persons within the area of the City of Ramsey limits are encouraged to be considerate by maintaining a physical distance of at least six feet of separation from non-group members, and by regularly sanitizing and/or washing their 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