

Chris Taggart

From: Victoria Moore <dogwood1284@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 4:20 PM
To: Ravalli County Commissioners Office
Cc: taggartc@rc.mt
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Follow up to email on 7/19/20 regarding lack of support to our Health Officer regarding Gov. Bullock's latest mask directive

Yesterday I once again saw the lead story on the 5:30 KPAX news related to Ravalli County. It was, I assume, an attempt by Chris Hoffman to explain the commissioners position on backup to the Health Officer in regards to Gov. Bullock's latest mask directive.

With all due respect, Mr. Hoffman, I am not "slow on the catch" relating to issues. I watched your presentation on KPAX and, frankly, still don't know if Carol Calderwood can expect the commissioners backup on implementing the governor's directive. If you and your fellow commissioners had said you wanted people to respect each other's opinions but still wear their masks, that is easily understandable. To leave it so it sounds more like you support the people who are not wearing masks is "on you".

There should be no ambiguity here. If you had stated your position clearly, I do not believe you would have received the letter of resignation from our County Health Officer. Nor would you have left voting citizens like me thinking the same thing she did after reading your statement and seeing you on the news on Monday. Communication is an important tool in a position like all of you have. You need to choose your words carefully so as to avoid the "hoopla" you set off and the creation of further antagonism between the different points of view.

This could have been handled much better. I hope all of you are ready to offer Carol Calderwood an apology and encourage her to continue in the position she has managed so well for a long time.

I will be anxiously watching to see how this plays out. I hope for all our sakes it can be over Friday with Carol ensconced in the position she has had and all of you backing her up. She deserves it and so do the citizens of Ravalli County.

Hopefully,
Victoria Moore

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