

Chris Taggart

From: miles nelsen <milesanelsen@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 22, 2020 2:21 PM
To: Ravalli County Commissioners Office
Subject: [EXTERNAL] corrected email regarding your Covid-19 policy/stance Yahoo

The following is a statement I wish to be entered into the public record of today's meeting concerning the Commissioner Message to Citizens with Regard to COVID:

Because of the Commissioners' blatant disregard of our Governor's state-wide mandate requiring the wearing of facemasks in indoor public spaces, I will not be attending today's meeting in person.

I am 66 years old. Hamilton or Grantsdale has been my legal residence my entire life, whether I was actually living here, away at school, or serving in the Marine Corps. This is my first letter/email to the County Commission ever.

Under our Bill of Rights, one individual's rights stop where another individual's nose begins. Furthermore, under the Constitution, two of our government's main, primary obligations is the protection of the People and to provide for their general welfare.

If an individual wishes to exercise his Constitutional rights, he is certainly free to do so, as long as it does not endanger another's life or well-being. He is also certainly free to endanger his own well-being. After all, this is America.

But he is not free to endanger others with his actions. He cannot drive drunk; he cannot start a fire when the County is under open-burning restrictions; he cannot discharge a firearm within city limits; indeed, he cannot yell 'fire' in a crowded theater. Even though all of the above are infringements on some of the individual rights that would normally be guaranteed otherwise in our Bill of Rights, because these actions infringe on the personal well-being of others, our society has seen fit to limit individual rights. *Individual rights are not absolute.* I would hope most of us would have little problem with that.

If some idiot wishes to make an ideological statement, he is entirely free to put a sign up in his yard. However, it should not be in the form of choosing not to wear a mask; it should not have to be in the form of putting another's health or life at risk. Our local hospitals are straining under the load.

The Commissioners' blatant disregard of the Governor's Mandate and basic science is a slap in the face to law and order, the principles of Federalism, and all reason. One of the Commissioners in a telephone conversation I had with him stated, "he would not like to be part of any government [enforcing such an order]." One might conclude he was confusing Tyranny with basic common sense. What all of the Commissioners seem to be encouraging is Anarchy in the name of Freedom.

The Commission is supposed to be the executive body of the County. They are supposed to be our County's finest. They are supposed to demonstrate wisdom. They are supposed to exercise leadership.

Regardless of what you think, masks DO work. Ask your surgeon the next time you are having surgery. The national and international evidence that they do is overwhelming. Step up to the plate. Do your job. ENFORCE the mandate.

Miles Nelsen
Hamilton

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