

## Bonenfant, Janice

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**From:** Jim Bouley <jpbouley@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 31, 2020 8:19 AM  
**To:** Bonenfant, Janice  
**Subject:** Fwd: Quick mask ordinance input

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Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Ann Long <annlong422@hotmail.com>  
**Date:** August 31, 2020 at 6:45:54 AM EDT  
**To:** "jpbouley@comcast.net" <jpbouley@comcast.net>, "zricehawkins@concordnh.gov" <zricehawkins@concordnh.gov>, "agradys Sexton@concordnh.gov" <agradys Sexton@concordnh.gov>  
**Subject:** Quick mask ordinance input

To whom it may concern,

Good morning. As I can imagine you are more then likely overwhelming occupied with current situations. I would like to share a few of my thoughts quickly with you about the upcoming mask ordinance possibility, as I am unable to attend the zoom meeting tonight. I will be quick as I'm sure you've heard from both sides heavily.

1. At what point are the numbers low enough ? With approximately 44,000 people in Concord we have a handful of cases. Are those cases any more severe then the common cold, flu or completely asymptomatic? We cannot eradicate an illness of any sort In this fashion.
2. I'm sorry but I have to bring up our state motto. Live Free or Die. If we choose not to, we do not have to wear our seatbelt or a helmet but we need to wear a mask? These mask have been shown only to protect the person wearing them. At what point do we cross the "my body, my choice" line. I think we are very close and that scares me.
3. Your own body's immune system, let it do it's job and what it was designed to do. Some studies have shown that "maybe" the mask isn't suppressing your immune system, but not being exposed to germs, virus's and bacteria's will lower it down to nothing, when that occurs even the smallest of germs could make a person far sicker then before.
4. Kids, I have a 10&13 year old. We have worked long and hard with a healthy lifestyle to build our immune systems to operate at maximum capacity. Please don't take all that effort away and make my kids and all the others more susceptible to illness. Please let them be kids! They have gotten enough taken away from them and so many do not really understand what they

can not see.

5. Let's focus on a more healthy lifestyle. Food is medicine is a phrase my kids hear all too much, your choices can either help or hurt. Diet, exercise, natural supplements and treatments work wonders without side effects.

6. Our city has far bigger issues to concentrate on such as our homeless, drugs and evictions.

7. The mental health side effects are becoming an issue and are downright scary.

My family and I choose not to wear a mask unless we absolutely have to, most of the time to get essential items to survive and thrive. This is not to prove a point or to go against the tide. This is because we feel as strongly about not wearing one as the people that do wear one. Our beliefs are just as founded, proven and solid as the other side, maybe just not as trusted due to lack of research and trust in "new" or "different" ideas on how to live and heal. I too used to overlook and discredit a natural, non chemical and non processed lifestyle until my son with Autism was able to come off his medication while practicing such a lifestyle.

In closing, please Don't allow choices to be made for all citizens based on comforting the fear we have been slammed with relentlessly for almost 6 months. It makes me so sad to see how many are truly and deeply scared and confused. Masks are not helping that. Wearing a mask when not contagious is like putting a bandaid on a cut you don't have yet.

Please allow me to make choices for myself and my family. Please don't take that away. Please don't take My children's immune system down to non functional.

I strongly oppose the mask mandate!

Thank you for your time and thank you for serving our great city.

Ann Long  
Mountain Road  
Concord NH  
603-868-4222



Dear Mayor Bouley and Members of the Concord City Council,

We are the administrators of Maskmakers for Concord, NH, a group of 125+ caring volunteers that has made, donated, and distributed more than 11,000 fabric face masks in and around Concord since March. Regular recipients include Concord Hospital, Dartmouth-Hitchcock, Community Bridges, Families in Transition, Granite State Independent Living, and many other organizations that urgently need community support.

Our volunteers sew and share the masks knowing that *wearing* masks is one small, simple thing that members of our community can do to protect one another during the COVID-19 pandemic. If an infected (even asymptomatic) person doesn't wear a mask, even those wearing masks are at risk of infection; therefore, requiring masks may be the only thing that can prevent the kind of spikes in Concord that communities across the nation are seeing following small and large gatherings. In other words, one infected person without a mask can negate the sacrifices that mask-wearers (and mask-makers) have been making for months now. It's not worth it.

We did a one-question poll in our Facebook group on Friday; of the 38 volunteers who answered the question, 37 checked: "I support a carefully crafted citywide ordinance requiring the use of facemasks in public spaces in Concord, NH." The 38th wrote their own answer: "Masks should be required in public, period. This is what Maine requires." No one checked the option saying they did not think a mask mandate is needed.

Here are some comments we received from volunteers, many of which illustrate that the lack of a mask mandate is hurting, not helping, local small businesses as they struggle to survive:

- "I would like to support our downtown businesses. However, without a mask ordinance I have been making purchases online." --JT
- "We should do everything in our power to make it safe enough for school." --CB
- "I'm a Concord resident, concerned voter, and deliver these lovingly handcrafted masks as often as I'm able to throughout the city. I fully support a mask ordinance as our city needs to protect our most vulnerable from this potentially lethal virus and masks-wearing is an essential objective in achieving that goal." -- Brian Harlow
- "Concord should consider a mask ordinance because we care about our community. Wearing a mask is an act of love and respect and will help reduce community spread. If there is an ordinance, it is less subjective and right now we need a clear stance." --JB
- "As a small business owner in Concord, I support the mask ordinance. It's imperative that we keep Covid numbers down so that we can stay open through the fall and winter." --CZ
- "We must continue to flatten the curve! I am continuing to sew for schools, hospitals and anyone who needs or wants a mask!" --KM

- "The science on wearing a mask to prevent disease transmission is evident and real. Masks were worn during the 1917 Spanish flu pandemic to decrease infections. Mask wearing is a proven intervention. There should be no question that masks are needed to keep us safe during this deadly pandemic. Pass this ordinance." --DL
- "I do not frequent any shops/stores where people are not wearing masks." --SS
- "I have been unable to visit certain downtown businesses and events due to the lack of masks on people. I am in full support of the Concord mask ordinance." --MH
- "Without a mask ordinance, many of us cannot do business in Concord, and this prevents the economy from recovering. We can have a safe place and full economy if everyone wears masks." --SS
- "I too have stopped going to Main Street with the frequency that I would go prior to March. I have also stopped going to the Saturday market. Even though it is outside, I am uncomfortable standing in line with non mask wearing people. If the masks can help slow the spread of Covid-19, we should all wear them to help our town and country return to normalcy." --MD
- "The lack of individuals voluntarily wearing masks has played a large role in our decision to avoid places like Main Street and casual recreation or dining areas in town. We shop for essentials, stay home, or find off the beaten path places to recreate." --JP
- "I support a mask ordinance. Without it, I will continue to avoid any large gathering including farmer's markets. We are still in the midst of a pandemic- we should all continue to maintain an awareness of that and maintain all the prescribed precautions. Without it, we are doing harm. By having an ordinance, people will know what is expected of them during this time, and those (like me) who avoid businesses where people don't wear masks, will be more inclined to venture out. We all want some sense of normalcy - we can have some of it back - if we can all abide by common rules, such as the simple act of wearing a mask. Please support this so we can all get through this trying time." --LB
- "The United States has 25% of the World's Covid-19 cases yet represents 2% of the World population. Mask wearing has proven to be effective in reducing transmission. I support a mask ordinance as a public health and safety measure to minimize the spread of Covid-19 and save lives." --DB

On behalf of our hardworking member-volunteers, who have selflessly spent thousands of hours and thousands of dollars making and distributing masks for the betterment of the community, we support a face mask ordinance for Concord. The science is clear, the need is great, and it's the simplest, most affordable way for us to get back to school and work sooner rather than later.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Beaudoin  
Kim Beers  
Melissa Hinebauch  
Donna Lannan  
Liza Poinier  
Erin Stewart

Maskmakers for Concord, NH -- Concord & Penacook

## Bonenfant, Janice

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**From:** Jim Bouley <jpbouley@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 31, 2020 8:18 AM  
**To:** Bonenfant, Janice  
**Subject:** Fwd: Mask ordinance feedback

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Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Gregg Gilbert <gregorvoss@icloud.com>  
**Date:** August 30, 2020 at 11:18:14 PM EDT  
**To:** zricehawkins@concordnh.gov  
**Cc:** jpbouley@comcast.net  
**Subject:** Mask ordinance feedback

Hello Zandra,

My name is Gregg Gilbert, a Ward 10 resident. I would like to express my thoughts on the mask ordinance. I hope to attend the meeting via phone or zoom on Monday evening, but in case I can't, my thoughts are listed below. As my representative, I hope you consider them and share them with your fellow board members.

Overall while I appreciate the good intent of the ordinance, I am opposed to the mask ordinance for the following reasons and concerns

**1. Risk of incidents between citizens and police:** with an ordinance in place, and fines involved, it creates the potential for incidents between citizens and police. There are strong opinions on both sides of the mask wearing issue, both sides having valid ideas about it. These strong opinions create a lot of emotion which can lead to resistance by citizens to be forced to wear one. We have seen on tv incidents escalate between business owners and patrons over this issue. In this age where everyone is filming with their phones, all it would take is one incident between a citizen and an officer and it be filmed and shared to create a huge spotlight and issue for the city to deal with. Even more so if the citizen was a non-white. Given the current climate in our society, this could be a spark that starts a blaze which could get out of control quickly. Police forces around the country are under the microscope, and given the extremely low level of active cases and hospitalizations, is this ordinance worth the risk of even a single incident?

**2. Legal action against the city:** I would be concerned the city could get embroiled in legal actions surrounding this ordinance. For two potential reasons. First, unless the city is prepared to bear the cost to supply masks to every resident, someone could interpret this as a requirement to purchase goods. To comply with the ordinance, one has to purchase a mask, or materials to

make a mask. This could be construed similar to the individual mandate to purchase health insurance in the Affordable Care Act which the Supreme Court's struck down in 2010. There is no choice once can make to avoid the requirement to wear a mask...each citizen must have a mask just to be alive in the city.

Second, there may be individuals who could make a case that the city is preempting a decision by the state regarding mask usage. There is no local state of emergency so we are under the guidance and direction of the Governor. Even if he has given explicit permission for each municipality to decide on a mask ordinance themselves, the fact that this would be in conflict with state guidance could trigger legal action by some citizen(s). If there is no ordinance to wear a seat belt, or a helmet for motorcycles riders can an ordinance to wear a mask be justified? Even if the city would be in the right in either of these cases, there would be a fiscal consequence getting involved in court cases. While it may seem unlikely the city would get a suit brought against it for this, all it takes is one passionate individual to file a suit and that could encourage even more.

Given the current statistics are changed since the ordinance was written, the risks of a widespread health emergency in our city is low.

Examples are: there now have been days where there have been no new cases in the entire state. Per WMUR, this weekend they reported there are only 7 active cases, and that doesn't indicate hospitalization, just an active case. Towns whose residents travel to Concord for work or shopping have no cases, like Canterbury, Chichester, Loudon, Bow, Boscawen. Surrounding states statistics are improving as well, with Massachusetts positive test rate dropping to only 1%.

So given the low risk of Coronavirus in our city and surrounding towns, is it worth the risk to the city to deal with the possibly unforeseen consequences of an ordinance like this?

I haven't heard from anyone in Concord that thinks this is a good idea. There is already a lot of frustration bubbling with parents of children who aren't allowed to attend school in person. I think that while this ordinance was written from a perspective of having the best interests for Concord a priority, that in reality it may backfire in the realm of public opinion, and in potential conflicts between citizens and authorities that may create more problems for the city than anticipated. So I don't thin it makes sense for Concord. I think it makes sense to continue to follow guidance at the state level instead of creating differences at the municipal level across the state.

One last comment. Many see this as a attack on an individual freedom. With frankly so many people already choosing to wear a mask already, by dictating it to people, you could see a lot more people refusing to wear it on principle, which wold have the opposite effect the ordinance wants. Americans, and I think especially NH residents, don't like being told what to do. Given the already high % of people wearing the masks, why pass an ordinance to do so when it seems it can only raise tensions and create potential problems for the city.

Thank you for your time in reading this, and thank you for your service to our great city!

Sincerely,

Gregg Gilbert  
Ward 10

**Bonenfant, Janice**

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**From:** Pam Ryan <pmalmb@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 31, 2020 3:01 PM  
**To:** Bonenfant, Janice  
**Subject:** mandatory mask-wearing

**[CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe]**

I am writing because of your decision to try to make mask-wearing mandatory in Concord, NH. Based on my observations when I am out in public, most people are wearing masks when in stores and businesses, as am I. They are trying to keep social distancing. New Hampshire has one of the lowest infection rates in the country. Therefore, making it mandatory to wear masks when outside does not make any sense.

Respectfully,

Pamela Ryan

## Bonenfant, Janice

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**From:** Karl Robinson <oebulldogee@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 31, 2020 3:00 PM  
**To:** Bonenfant, Janice  
**Subject:** Mask ordinance

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I am completely opposed to the mask ordinance. It is not necessary at this point. I don't mind wearing one to go shopping but after wearing one all day at work I really don't want to have to worry about being fined because I don't have one on in a public place. The police have Better things to do. Thanks Karl R.

## Bonenfant, Janice

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**From:** turtlefan420@comcast.net  
**Sent:** Monday, August 31, 2020 2:56 PM  
**To:** Bonenfant, Janice  
**Subject:** Mask ordinance

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I feel very strongly against having this order put into place. Our city and state have flattened the curve, making people wear masks now is not necessary. I have to wear a mask at my job for 8 hours a day sometimes longer when I get out of work the last thing I want to do is put it back on when I want to walk around in public. I have no problem wearing one to go shopping I get the need for that but to fine me for being in a public place without one on is stupid. What is the point now? As I stated before I and my family and friends are highly opposed to this mask order and I will not follow it if passed.

Hopefully you will hear us and listen we don't want this ordinance. Karl R.

Sent from Xfinity Connect Application

**Bonenfant, Janice**

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**From:** Susan Davis <sqdvs@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 31, 2020 2:21 PM  
**To:** Bonenfant, Janice  
**Subject:** Face mask ordinance for the City of Concord NH

[CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe]

Dear Sir or Madam, having been made aware of a meeting being held regarding a mandatory face mask ordinance for Concord, I am writing to state my thoughts regarding this. A mandatory ordinance is not needed for Concord. I am not out in public spaces much, but when I am, I do wear a mask and follow social distance guidelines, as I believe most people do. There is enough stress related to this pandemic without imposing fines and getting police involved. This the "Live Free or Die" state, but we have been well-educated about the virus and know what and what not to do.

I appreciate the time you have taken to read my message. Thanks for forwarding this to the appropriate person.

Susan Davis

27 Prescott St Apt 1

Concord, NH 03301

Sent from my iPhone

**Bonenfant, Janice**

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**From:** Brent Todd <brenttoddconcord@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 31, 2020 2:49 PM  
**To:** Bonenfant, Janice  
**Subject:** Fwd: My two cents regarding mandatory masks

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Janice,

I have one more to add to the testimony received for tonight's meeting.

Thanks,

Brent

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Donna RAYCRAFT** <[draycraft@comcast.net](mailto:draycraft@comcast.net)>  
Date: Mon, Aug 31, 2020 at 2:05 PM  
Subject: My two cents regarding mandatory masks  
To: Brent Todd <[brenttoddconcord@gmail.com](mailto:brenttoddconcord@gmail.com)>, Amanda Grady <[amandakgrady@gmail.com](mailto:amandakgrady@gmail.com)>

Dear Brent and Amanda,

I know the discussion on masks will be contentious, so I thought I'd let you know my thoughts: both Joe and I would feel safer if we had a mandatory mask ordinance. People at most of the places we frequent do wear masks, but there have been a few times that we've cringed. Especially as schools and colleges open up at the same time that people develop a false sense of security because our numbers are low, we need to be even more careful BEFORE something happens.

Thanks for all you both do,  
Donna and Joe Raycraft (well over 65)

## Bonenfant, Janice

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**From:** Brent Todd <brenttoddconcord@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 31, 2020 2:47 PM  
**To:** Bonenfant, Janice  
**Subject:** Fwd: Why No, on the Mask Ordinance

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Hi Janice,

If there's time, can you please add this to the testimony for tonight's meeting?

Thanks,

Brent

----- Forwarded message -----

From: <[donsweet@rcsofne.com](mailto:donsweet@rcsofne.com)>  
Date: Mon, Aug 31, 2020 at 10:29 AM  
Subject: Why No, on the Mask Ordinance  
To: Brent Todd <[brenttoddconcord@gmail.com](mailto:brenttoddconcord@gmail.com)>  
Cc: Donna Sweet <[donnams57@yahoo.com](mailto:donnams57@yahoo.com)>

Hi Brent, Donna my wife and myself offer our perspective when to wear a mask.

My wife works at the Paper Store which has a mask requirement for all employees and all customers when shopping "inside" the store.

My small home based business requires visitors to wear a mask while in my small workshop and can remove them when outside viewing the trains.

This policy seems to work fine for both of us. All customers understand the requirement without Government intervention or threat from fines.

The Data supports the facts that in the State of New Hampshire is fortunate that the Covid-19 pandemic has leveled off and has been less than 1% of population.

When my wife finishes her shift she has a hoarse voice from breathing stale air all day. She looks forward to taking a walk along our trails or neighborhood streets to breath fresh air. We would not want to be required to wear a mask on any City trails or neighborhood streets.

With most banks closing their branches I travel into town to bank. I park in the city garage put on my mask and proceed to the bank. As I walk along Main Street it saddens me to see the emptiness . If you require the mask with fines how much more can we expect to take as citizens . It feels like we are losing our beloved city.

We already restricted our attending any events and indoor dining until there is a vaccine. I believe most citizens are doing the same. When we go shopping most citizens wear a mask to protect themselves. I have seen citizens challenge others to put on the mask. We do not need the Police to babysit us.

Please vote No on this mask ordinance. By your actions of the City Council, it tells our citizens we trust you to wear the mask so others will stay healthy.

“Live Free or Die”

Sincerely submitted,

Donna and Donald Sweet

79 Abbott Road

Penacook, NH

## Bonenfant, Janice

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**From:** bar-be <bar-be@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 31, 2020 11:52 AM  
**To:** Bonenfant, Janice  
**Subject:** Mask Ordinance Prevent Spread

**[CAUTION:** *This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe***]**

Please Approve MASK ordinance. Thank you Barbara S. Souther

Sent from my Galaxy Tab® A

## Bonenfant, Janice

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**From:** Jeremy Woodward <jeremy@jeremysbootcamp.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 31, 2020 3:57 PM  
**To:** Bonenfant, Janice  
**Subject:** Mask Mandate

[CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe]

Hi,

This is in regards to the Mask  
Mandate being proposed for tie City Of Concord.  
I'm OPPOSED to mandating masks at this point. The numbers in our great city just don't warrant it.

As of this morning I believe we have 1 new hospitalization at Concord HOspital. 6 total Current hospitalizations in the entire State. Of the approx city population of 44,000 + residents less than .0016 are currently infected. If my numbers are correct their was only 8 new cases in the state reported this morning at 9am.

I think that mandating masks and imposing fines for not wearing one is entering into an area that could cause adverse reaction among residents and create a much higher level of anxiety.

We do live in the Live Free Or Die State.

Unless we have a significant rise in numbers of infections I believe that we should have the choice to wear a mask or not in public and let the businesses and local organizations make the call on their protocols.

Thank you,

Jeremy

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• UESCA Certified Running Coach • PN Level 1 Certified Coach • USA Cycling Level 3 Coach • USA  
Swimming • CPT • GEAR Cycling Instructor • SafeSport Certified

**Bonenfant, Janice**

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**From:** technoman26@yahoo.com  
**Sent:** Monday, August 31, 2020 5:03 PM  
**To:** Werner, Robert; Bonenfant, Janice  
**Subject:** Mask Ordinance

**[CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe]**

Dear Concord City Council,

I cannot support the mask ordinance currently proposed in Concord. Below are my concerns:

- How will you measure success of the ordinance and what will be the determining factors in renewing or not renewing the ordinance in January when it is set to expire?
  - Zero cases per day in NH? Concord?
  - Number of hospitalizations in NH? Concord?
- How will this ordinance be enforced?
  - Does Concord PD have the resources to enforce this ordinance?
  - Does Concord PD support this ordinance?
  - How would someone prove they should have a medical exemption?
    - Will this ordinance put the burden of proof on those unable to wear a mask?
- Efficacy of cloth masks?
  - Having read numerous articles about cloth masks for months on end, most will report back that cloth masks make people feel safe but I've yet to read a randomized controlled study that indicates they are actually effective in controlling COVID-19 or other infectious diseases. I've looked into research on cloth masks effectiveness and haven't found one that definitely states cloth face masks will prevent the transmission of respiratory diseases (and zero specifically related to COVID-19).
  - Should the City be passing policy revolving around making people feel safe without assessing the true risk (see below re: current risk)?
- Supporting small businesses

- Businesses are struggling to deal with all the guidelines laid out for which they are expected to adhere. Concord residents and businesses have exceeded the goal of flattening the curve and adding this ordinance seems punitive especially given the majority of people in town are already wearing masks.
- Current risk
  - In NH our COVID-19 infection rate is low (steadily low as well). There are very few patients currently hospitalized and daily positive infections have continued to be minimal and generally trended downward for a number of weeks.
    - The ordinance has been written and if necessary could be enacted should infections rates in our area go up.
- Other thoughts:
  - Current changes in what we know about COVID-19 deaths from the CDC
    - Last week the CDC changed the numbers. 94% of all patients having been reported to have died from COVID-19 did not in fact die from COVID-19. It's approximately 10k deaths due to COVID-19 in the US. 6% of the people that have been reported of the 180k plus patients actually died "from" COVID-19. On average, from the 180k deaths reported, people that died had 2.6 co-morbidities. Link to CDC report: [https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/vsrr/covid\\_weekly/index.htm?fbclid=IwAR3-wrg3tTKK5-9tOHPGAHWFVO3DfsIkJ0KsDEPQpWmPbKtp6EsoVV2Qs1Q](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/vsrr/covid_weekly/index.htm?fbclid=IwAR3-wrg3tTKK5-9tOHPGAHWFVO3DfsIkJ0KsDEPQpWmPbKtp6EsoVV2Qs1Q)
  - The State has allowed restaurants to re-open given social distance guidelines etc. The city of Concord has allowed restaurants to expand their seating outside by taking up sidewalk and parking space(s). How is sitting outside, dining, breathing without a mask while seated at a table somehow different than someone walking down the same sidewalk or street?

Based on the evidence I've seen, read, heard, I strongly discourage the Concord City Council from passing this ordinance.

Rob Talmadge