
START

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Date: November 10, 2020 at 11:23:15 AM PST
To: City Council <citycouncil@hermosabeach.gov>
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Subject: U.S. Confirmed Coronavirus Infections Hit 10 Million

Dear Mayor Campbell
Dear Mayor Protem Massey
Dear Suja Lowenthal

The Covid infection numbers are stunning. We are on a terrible trajectory headed in to the winter.

Yet our city continues to act in a manner that is promoting mass infection rather than mask accountability by allowing and even encouraging residents and visitors to disregard mask protocols and other Covid Safety protocols then ignoring these violations where they know they exactly where and when they are happening; and yes I have evidence. Why the city won't even take down the beach volleyball nets despite the fact the county of Los Angeles specifically called out Volleyball on our beaches as an unsafe and prohibited activities.

On November 9th NPR reported it took only 10 days for the total tally to increase from 9 million. The U.S. is currently averaging more than 100,000 cases per day and could exceed 200,000 new cases per day by Thanksgiving. The URL can be found below.

"It's entered the exponential phase, and that means it's going to get worse and, frankly, a lot worse before it gets better," Dr. Thomas Frieden, a former director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The confluence of factors here is extremely problematic," says Frieden. "This is a very dangerous time."

The LA Times also reported that during the seven-day period that ended Sunday November 8th, Los Angeles County reported more than 13,000 cases, a 38% jump from the previous week and the highest number of weekly cases in more than two months.

There is a nationwide explosion in Covid cases and the evidence is that this 3rd wave is gaining a strong foothold in LA County while our city sleeps

I have provide evidence over and over that in the city of Hermosa Beach Covid Safety protocols are being ignored by large segments of our population at our beaches, on the strand and in our parks and the cities response has been dysfunctional, impotent, and inconsistent.

Many of our residents has been openly hostile to Covid safety protocols, even destroying & defacing mask required signs and gathering in large groups without distancing AND without masks on our beaches and strands, downtown especially on Schumacher Plaza and in Valley Park.

Dr. Carlos del Rio, an infectious disease expert at Emory University.

"We need a national mask mandate now," Del Rio said. "We all need to 'step up our game' and use a face mask all the time we are in a public place, practice social distancing, wash our hands and avoid crowded congregate and not well ventilated places. Wearing a face mask should not be a partisan issue, it should be a public health priority."

But that's not what is happening in Hermosa Beach is it?

There is no stepping up of our game.

It's just rerun after rerun of the same failed Covid safety policies.

Rather than recognizing that simply by wearing masks when we interact with others we can reduce the Covid infection rate 60-90% our city refuses to establish goals for mask compliance at our parks and beaches and on our strand.

Why does the city refuse to establish mask compliance goals for our downtown area, our parks, beaches and on the strand?

I've asked this question countless times to the city manager, the city council, the parks commission and our soon to be replaced mayor.

Not once have I received an answer or explanation.

So I will now directly ask this question this question to our soon to be Mayor - Justin Massey.

Mr Massey -

Why does the city refuse to establish mask compliance goals for our downtown area, our parks, beaches and on the strand that are consistent with the studies that indicate Covid transmission can be reduced by 60-90% simply by wearing masks.

Why do you refuse to track and publish compliance trends at our parks, beaches, downtown areas and on our strand? This trend data could have been easily gathered by the mask compliance officers the city hired or gathered by community service police officers.

I believe the answer to this question is clear.

The city does not want to know how we are doing with mask compliance because then the city leadership could be called to account for not doing anything about it.

You are afraid that establishing goals and monitoring compliance trends would hurt businesses and restaurants in our area if god forbid we closed our parks, beaches or strand a few days because of the rampant non-compliance

You care more about the chamber of commerce than you do about the 1 in 3 at-risk residents in our community.

You are afraid that by implementing short term closures of our parks, strands and beaches to drive home the point that mask scofflaws will not be tolerated you will be unpopular.

Well I'm here to tell you Mr Massey, council members and Ms Lowenthal, that's not leadership that's cowardice AND reckless endangerment.

Putting our residents at risk like this is unconscionable. There has to be a better way.

You could choose to do better but the evidence is you won't and you will continue this unabashed attack on vulnerable populations and ignore your complicity in it.

That's the sad state of affairs in Hermosa Beach as you pass the baton with pompous ceremony from Mayor Campbell to Mayor Justin Massey.

You could have made a difference.

But over the past 3 months you all took the easy way out regarding masks

and distancing, like so many local governments across our country, and now we have a raging pandemic.

Thank you for your service

Anthony Higgins

https://www.npr.org/sections/coronavirus-live-updates/2020/11/09/933023659/u-s-confirmed-coronavirus-infections-hit-10-million?sc=17&f=1001&utm_source=iosnewsapp&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=app