



Roll Call Number

20-1152

Agenda Item Number

601

Date July 13, 2020

RESOLUTION REGARDING CITY POLICIES ON THE USE OF FACE MASKS

WHEREAS, COVID-19 cases continue to increase in record numbers nationally; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 cases continue to increase in Iowa and in Polk County specifically; and

WHEREAS, the City of Des Moines should be taking all the steps that it can to protect the public from COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the CDC recommends all people 2 years of age and older wear a cloth face covering in public settings and when around people who don't live in the same household, especially when other social-distancing measures are difficult to maintain; and

WHEREAS, face mask wearing along with handwashing and social distancing represent low-cost strategies that are relatively simple to implement to combat the spread of the virus; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 can be spread by asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic individuals making it important for everyone – not just those exhibiting symptoms – to wear face coverings in public; and

WHEREAS, the more people who block the transmission of the virus with face coverings, the less virus circulates in the community and the less risk everyone in the community has for infection; and

WHEREAS, widespread use of face masks could help control COVID-19 and allow the economy to stay open, saving jobs in the process; and

WHEREAS, wearing a face mask primarily protects others from catching the virus from the person wearing the mask, and therefore is a simple step that a person can take to protect everyone with whom they may come into contact.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Des Moines, Iowa that the City Manager has implemented face-mask wearing in all City buildings by members of the public and by City staff that are in a room or common area with other City employees and such a plan shall stay in place until the Council directs otherwise; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager has developed a plan to implement face-mask wearing by all City employees whenever they have contact with members of the public and such a plan shall stay in place until the Council directs otherwise; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager shall strongly recommend and encourage any contractors providing services to the City and any developers or operators of projects receiving City grant or loan incentives, including from tax increment or other City funding sources, to follow CDC guidelines including CDC guidelines on face-mask wearing for the duration of services or the project; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all employers, businesses, nonprofits, and other entities in the City of Des Moines are strongly recommended to develop similar face-mask-wearing policies for their employees and for interaction with the general public when their premises; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City, through the City Manager, City staff, and City representatives will share its position with organizations that the City is a member of and works collaboratively with to share the City's position and encourage those organizations to adopt similar face-mask-wearing policies.

Moved by Mandelbaum to adopt and allow face shields as an alternative to masks.

Sponsored by Mandelbaum, Boesen, Voss and Cownie

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

/s/ Lawrence R. McDowell
Lawrence R. McDowell
Deputy City Attorney

COUNCIL ACTION	YEAS	NAYS	PASS	ABSENT
COWNIE	✓			
BOESEN	✓			
GATTO	✓			
GRAY	✓			
MANDELBAUM	✓			
VOSS	✓			
WESTERGAARD	✓			
TOTAL	7			

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVED

J. M. Franklin Cownie Mayor

CERTIFICATE

I, P. Kay Cmelik, City Clerk of said City hereby certify that at a meeting of the City Council of said City of Des Moines, held on the above date, among other proceedings the above was adopted.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal the day and year first above written.

P. Kay Cmelik

City Clerk