

City of Venice

Request to Speak (print legibly)



Name: Larry Wilson Date: 8-25-20

Address: 601 Armada Rd S.

City: Venice State FL Zip 34285

City Resident: ☒ Yes ☐ No City Property Owner: ☒ Yes ☐ No

City Business Owner: ☐ Yes ☒ No Telephone No: 941-223 0057

Organization (if any): _____

Please Check One

☒ Audience Participation – Topic: Mask ordinance

☐ During Agenda Item - Topic: _____

If you are going to present evidence and/or testimony during a public hearing, you are required to complete and sign the following oath. You are not required to sign the oath if you are speaking at Audience Participation or at a workshop.

I swear or affirm, under penalty of perjury, that the evidence or factual representation, which I am about to give or present at the public hearing, held this 25th day of Aug 20 20 is truthful.

Signature: Larry E Wilson

Comments at public hearings and during audience participation are limited to five minutes per speaker for city residents, property owners and business owners, and two minutes for all others, unless otherwise noted.



"City on the Gulf"

City of Venice

Request to Speak (print legibly)

Name: Rosemary Nero Date: Aug 25 2020

Address: 336 Rio Terra

City: Venice State FL Zip 33428

City Resident: ☒ Yes ☐ No City Property Owner: ☒ Yes ☐ No

City Business Owner: ☐ Yes ☒ No Telephone No: _____

Organization (if any): _____

Please Check One

☒ Audience Participation – Topic: _____

☒ During Agenda Item - Topic: MASK mandate ordinance

If you are going to present evidence and/or testimony during a public hearing, you are required to complete and sign the following oath. You are not required to sign the oath if you are speaking at Audience Participation or at a workshop.

I swear or affirm, under penalty of perjury, that the evidence or factual representation, which I am about to give or present at the public hearing, held this 25 day of August 2020 is truthful.

Signature: Rosemary Nero

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I AM OPPOSED TO AN ORDINANCE ORDERING THE PEOPLE OF VENICE TO WEAR A MASK WHEN THEY LEAVE THEIR HOMES.

I am AGAINST it.

First,

I don't think the city government has the RIGHT to make me wear a mask. I believe that passing such a law places a restriction on my personal freedoms. It makes it difficult to communicate. I cannot express myself by smiling or frowning. My speech is muffled. My breathing is impaired. It makes me perspire. It irritates my lips and my doctor says it causes my *atopic dermatitis*. It is also uncomfortable and troublesome. Your ordinance would interfere with *my pursuit of happiness* and my personal freedoms.

This is simple to see. I talk to employees and shoppers about wearing a mask in stores, and they generally agree that they wouldn't wear a mask if the store did not force them to do so. I have made up tee shirts that bear the message "I will not wear a mask." Invariably, strangers say they like my shirt and want to know how they can get one. People don't like being forced to wear a mask. Do you know what they all do immediately when they leave the grocery store?---They take off their masks.

But there are also some people who have a visceral fear of the Coronavirus. They have been cowed by the news media to the point that no one can reason with them. They believe whatever they hear on CNN.

Second, I oppose the ordinance on practical grounds.

The mask rationale is reported to be needed to aid downtown businesses with customers who refuse to wear a mask, but couldn't they just ask the offender to leave?

The police are busy already. Do you want to pull them off other duties to warn a person to wear a mask?

It also is an enforcement issue. Wouldn't it be unseemly to issue a citation for this infraction? Would a policeman need to show up with his gun to enforce this ordinance?

Then there is the fine. Really? For refusing to wear a cloth or paper mask over his face, would you assess a \$50 fine (if the lawbreaker agreed to pay it) or a \$500 fine if he chose to object based on one of the numerous exceptions? This smacks of extortion! What an shameful ordinance!

Then there are factual data the council seems to have overlooked.

There are many kinds of masks. There is the ghoulish Halloween mask that not only covers the mouth and nose, but also the whole face. Or the Star Wars mask or superhero mask.

There is the neck gaiter which is considered by the CDC as *worse than no mask* because it makes large droplets smaller as they pass through the fabric.

There is the N-95 mask with the plastic port for exhaling, recently found by the CDC to be effective in **spreading** the virus.

There is the bandanna, the cloth mask, the paper mask, the surgical mask. Are you going to just say ALL masks are the same? Any mask will do?? Is the ordinance made for appearances only? Kind of a silly law, isn't it?

Finally, and most important, your law ignores science.

Robert Redfield gave the "keys to Covid prevention" in the CDC press briefing dated June 25 as:

1. Social distancing 2. Hand hygiene 3. Staying away from others when you are ill and 4. Properly wearing a face covering when you are unable to social distance. In other words, the LEAST IMPORTANT ACTION is the only one you want to make a law about.
- 2. *Given the choice, I would rather practice social distancing, the number one safe practice.***

The mask is useless outside if social distancing is practiced. Are the police supposed to watch a person to make sure he is at least six feet away from other people at all times if he isn't wearing a mask?

Finally,

The government has estimated **136 thousand** Americans will die of lung cancer this year, but you don't have an ordinance against smoking. Even more will die from heart disease, but you don't have an ordinance against eating *Doritos* or *red meat*. And **80 thousand** will die from diabetes, but no one gets arrested for being overweight. So why all the fuss about the virus, which by the direst prediction will kill only 300 thousand?

My daddy told me that if you live long enough, no matter how careful you are, something will kill you. And I think he was right!