

May 5th, 2020

Dear Council,

The Corona virus has now killed 69,000 Americans in a little over 2 months. Fortunately, we live in a state where our governor and mayors of our most populated cities put stay at home orders in place early on which has saved thousands of lives. The recent strong recommendation to wear masks while in stores and businesses while social distancing, has provided still more protection. As more businesses begin to open, it is of the utmost importance that our safety remains to be priority #1. Requiring all customers and store workers to wear masks and maintain social distancing, and practicing strict sanitary practices will do this. Way too many lives have already been lost and we must do our small part by wearing masks when indoors and around other people. The relaxation of rules around our country has dramatically changed the ongoing death estimates for our country. Over the last 2 weeks, they have gone from 60,000 to 75,000, to 126,000 largely because many states are allowing their economies to reopen before the virus has been adequately suppressed in their states. Having a penitentiary as our neighbor which is already

dealing with an outbreak infecting over 100 prisoners and perhaps 2 or 3 dozen staff members (we don't exactly know) is very concerning. Most of the staff at the prison probably lives in Lompoc, Vandenberg Village, Santa Maria and Orcutt.

Santa Barbara last week put a mandatory mask wearing requirement for all people while in stores and or businesses unless there is a medical reason while one can't be worn. Santa Barbara has more than 2X as many people as Lompoc. They've had fewer people test positive for covid-19 - (57) versus Lompoc's (84). Let's do our part and save as many lives of our neighbors and health care workers and require and enforce mask wearing while in stores and businesses.

Thank you,

Mark Thomas