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Subject: Discussion of Current Regional Stay at Home Health Order
Date: Saturday, December 12, 2020 11:22:30 AM

Please accept this as public comment and a written communication concerning Discussion of Current Regional Stay at Home Health Order on the December 15th agenda.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge James Chalfant wrote last week that “Los Angeles County’s health director acted “arbitrarily” and didn’t prove the danger to the public when she banned outdoor dining at restaurants as coronavirus cases surged last month”. So, it appears that when tested in a court of law the “science” used to cause closures didn’t pass the test.

The Governor of California appears to have used the same “science” when he ordered the closure of outdoor dining throughout the southern half of the state including Santa Barbara County.

I urge you to use common sense while discussing Item# 12 on tonight’s agenda. Clearly the “emergency condition” used to justify outdoor dining closure has been judged invalid. And, the availability of ICU beds in our county is well above the 15% threshold that has been judged a critical point of concern.

Therefore, first you should choose to support local business and authorize the mayor to send a letter supporting separation of the Central Coast counties from the Southern California region under the Order.

Secondly, while you cannot prevent the county and state from enforcing the order you could direct the City Manager to notify all City departments that the City of Lompoc will not engage in any enforcement activity relating to the closure of outdoor dining.

Lastly you should respect the time, energy, and monetary investment that restaurant owners have put into assuring the safety of their guests. Each time a new order, and there has been an ever-changing set of guidelines coming from the state, they stopped what they were doing and invested in the recommended changes.

Now, based on an apparently faulty analysis they are being ordered to shut down. These folks are your neighbors; they pay business taxes and licensing fees so they can operate their businesses. Support them in their time of need!

Ron Fink
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