

BOCC PUBLIC COMMENTS

8/12/2020

These are questions and comments received through the County website and through the Strategic Communications email.

Name:

Martha Slack

Contact Information:

marthaslack@transprowichita.com

Received By:

This comment was received through the communications email.

Subject:

Public Comment for Meeting

Comment:

“BOARD,

As a nurse, mother, and business owner (licensed in Wichita), I want to go on record asking the commissioners to listen to public health officials (Dr Minns and others) as they know best how to mitigate this pandemic and protect public health.

If you fail to heed his recommendations you shall be liable for the outcome. Most of us grew up starting school after Labor day, so this nonsense about the kids “missing out” is invalid. Also the time will allow on-site training of educators in their buildings before

school starts; the COVID plans for each school will be complex and cannot be read through once and then proceed.

Since we have a failure to enforce the use of masks in public (yes far too many people still walk right into businesses with signage posted to wear a mask), and we have an uptick of younger adults now spiking with the virus it makes complete sense to take away the environments and times they tend to congregate in.

This is not about your political position, the office you wish to maintain, or the votes you hope to gain, this is about population health and you are out of your lane if you are trying to tell public health officials what to do or not do.

Thank you for sharing my comments to the board.

Martha Slack, RN, BSN, President

Phone 316-260-3441

Cell 316-833-2220”

Name:

Shari Hobbs

Contact Information:

sharilynn54@gmail.com

Received By:

This comment was received through the communications email.

Subject:

No new restrictions

Comment:

“I object to the latest proposal for more arbitrary restrictions on individuals and businesses. We were told shut down for two weeks in the beginning to “flatten the curve” and not overwhelm hospitals. We did. The goal posts have continually shifted as more testing increased the number of cases yet virility and deaths have greatly declined. Meanwhile, we have destroyed businesses, mental health, trust in our neighbors, events and activities all based on faulty data and failed predictions. Avoiding this virus is only one piece to take into consideration as we each assess various risks and trade-offs. We need to treat this as we do TB or Influenza and other similar infections. Please reject this latest assault on our freedom and allow for individual responsibility concerning health issues. Thank you.

Shari Hobbs

Wichita, KS”

Name:

Paul Teran

Contact Information:

paulteran4@gmail.com

Received By:

This comment was received through the communications email.

Subject:

Support Dr. Minn's Recommendations

Comment:

"Dear Sedgwick County Commission,

Your leadership as the County Commission could save or jeopardize the lives of many people in Sedgwick County. We are currently at a critical point in our path through the COVID-19 pandemic. There is an alarming surge of Coronavirus in our community. The Recommendations that Dr. Minns outlined are important for the health of everyone in our county and are important to help schools reopen and businesses avoid further restrictions.

Thank you,

Paul Teran, MD

Pediatric Hospitalist

KU-Wichita Pediatrics

[Paulteran4@gmail.com](mailto:paulteran4@gmail.com)"

Name:

Jeremy Randleman

Contact Information:

lemmiwynks@gmail.com

Received By:

This comment was received through the communications email.

Subject:

COVID restrictions

Comment:

“I'm writing to express my strong opposition to the latest proposals being put forth by our county health department in the seemingly never ending fight against covid-19. I believe the urge to shut down businesses and clamp down on others will do nothing but harm to the community. We are already under a mandatory mask mandate, what are you guys saying with potentially shutting down again? That masks don't work? There are countless articles, peer review papers, and stories that contradict what the CDC, government, media and it's many hacks push daily on the population;

(<https://jbhandleyblog.com/home/2020/6/28/secondwave>),

On the uselessness of masks;

(https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/26/5/19-0994_article);

Florida (and many other states i'm sure, including Kansas) inflating Covid numbers;

[\(https://www.breitbart.com/health/2020/07/14/fox-35-investigation-reveals-inflated-florida-covid-19-numbers/\)](https://www.breitbart.com/health/2020/07/14/fox-35-investigation-reveals-inflated-florida-covid-19-numbers/).

Many other epidemiologists, and the like, have vastly different opinions that don't seem to get the same air time as the defacto CDC and Johns Hopkins U dreck:

(<https://usa.greekreporter.com/2020/06/27/up-to-300-million-people-may-be-infected-by-covid-19-stanford-guru-john-ioannidis-says/>

It's a good thing we have other models to compare too, such as Sweden, or even South Dakota, who have done far better than we have. There are countless more, similar studies out there that contradict what we see on T.V. and hear from our local and State medical "professionals." No wonder people are confused and divided. One thing is for sure though; to again shut down the livelihoods of hundreds of, if not, thousands of citizens, the consequences will far outweigh the virus, and you may very well have blood on your hands. As for Dr. Minns, he shouldn't be the only one consulted on these matters, many other voices should be heard and considered, not just from a medical perspective, but also from an economic, societal, and humanistic perspective. Ultimately however, I believe individuals, and businesses should be the ones to decide what's best for them, not government decree, however good intentioned it is."

Name:

Vanessa Le

Contact Information:

vanessa7310@icloud.com

Received By:

This comment was received through the communications email.

Subject:

Public Comment

Comment:

“Good afternoon,

I am emailing you today to comment on the state of our city. We recently have been declared a red zone by the White House, they have suggested guidelines to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

The members of the Board were the last ones on board for the mask mandate. You wanted to risk the health of Kansans with your personal opinion on health, instead of listening to the 13 doctors that testified. Start putting the health of our citizens first and not your personal feelings about masks. Follow the lead of Governor Laura Kelly, and Health Director Minns and openly support the safety measures they are trying to enforce.

I am asking that you implement the guidelines provided by the White House. I am asking that you help reduce the spread, help protect workers, families, and citizens of this state. I am asking that you choose the right side of history

Sincerely,

A very concerned Kansan

Sent from my iPhone”

Name:

Sktc

Contact Information:

stevens1552@sktc.net

Received By:

This comment was received through the communications email.

Subject:

Mask Mandates business closure

Comment:

“I want to express my disgust and anger regarding the mask mandates and unequal and unfair application of business closures that I feel are unconstitutional and need to be challenged. There are approximately 3 million people in Kansas and we have had 320 deaths in Kansas. That is literally .001% of the population. You are infringing upon the constitutional rights of millions of people and restricting their liberties based upon a virus that is affecting a small group of people significantly. There is no reason for businesses being closed or mask mandates. The media has created hysteria with their positive test results. This virus is over-hyped and there is no justification for sacrificing liberty. I also 100% oppose any attempt to restrict voting in person.

Bill”

Name:

Simkatu

Contact Information:

simkatu@gmail.com

Received By:

This comment was received through the communications email.

Subject:

COVID Closing only bars

Comment:

“The Covid-19 order that closes bars was one of the absolute worst things the commission could have done to combat the spread of Covid-19.

Why would the commission choose to close only bars? Where will the 21-40 year olds go to party now that their bar is closed? Will they just decide to go back home? Or will they just go to a bar that has a kitchen instead? They will be making those places even more crowded because of the commission's order! The commission's order was worse than doing nothing. It's going to lead to increased cases of Covid-19 and not fewer. Rethink the order and open bars again and make them follow the same rules as every other bar that has a restaurant attached.

Regards,

AJ Simkatu

simkatu@gmail.com”

Name:

Petra Maria Vaughn

Contact Information:

brgirl20171@icloud.com

Received By:

This comment was received through the communications email.

Subject:

The Bar the Rusty Nail

Comment:

“They are acting as a bar they are not requiring Masks they are also not having any food served and it’s 10:41 they are not maintaining 6 feet between people.

Please check them out

Sent from my iPhone”

Name:

Lori Kirby

Contact Information:

lk_kirby@hotmail.com

Received By:

This comment was received through the communications email.

Subject:

COVID Ordinance for Bars

Comment:

“Hello Pete, My name is Lori Farha Kirby I have known you and your family for many years as you may recall. I have enjoyed watching and following you being involved in and taking care of our city! I admire but certainly dont envy. I would like to voice an opinion that is shared by myself and many others in my industry and I will try to get straight to my point. I own a bar & grill in Wichita. This is my 26th year at this location. The name of my bar is Southrock Billiards . It is a5000 sq. ft. facility. Our main focus is pool. We were ordered to lock our doors at midnight yesterday morning due to covid. I totally understand the danger and immensity of the virus and am not here to spit in its face as I have dealt with it on a personal level. I am here to express my concern and unhappiness that my business is being catagorized and have to follow restrictions that I believe to be unfair. My facility is big enough to social distance and we do put out the effort to enforce that, unlike other bars with obvious different atmosphere than ours, such as dance clubs in Old Town. We have installed hand

sanitizing stations in the bar. We take great effort to sanitize tables, chairs, pool tables, pool cues, etc. during the course of business hours. Our employees wear masks. We sell food. We sell food every day. We have a full kitchen. Maybe our food sales don't reach 30% but if we want to look at food and vending income it would reach the 30%, not that I'm sure of the significance of 30% in the big scheme of things. There are a couple of other establishments in town that have nearly the exact atmosphere, focus and setup as ours and are being allowed to stay open! This doesn't seem at all fair! And it's not only my bar, it's all the little bars that may only get 15 or 20 customers a day. The arrogance of some establishments that refuse to respect guidelines given to us to battle back at the virus should not be the reason that EVERY bar has to suffer the consequences of their actions!!! WE have our families that rely on the success of our business! We have employees that count on the success of our business, some who have been with us for over 15 years! WE work hard and diligently EVERY day to provide a fun and safe place for people to enjoy! Not every bar is the same and shouldn't be categorized as such. So, I am asking for you to PLEASE reconsider my order to remain closed for business. Your time and consideration will be greatly appreciated!

Tell your Brother Mike Hello and I miss doing business with him at Farhas! Sincerely, Lori Farha Kirby"

Name:

Joseline Lopez

Contact Information:

lopezjoseline15@gmail.com

Received By:

This comment was received through the communications email.

Subject:

Public Comment

Comment:

“Good afternoon,

I am emailing you today to comment on the state of our city. We recently have been declared a red zone by the White House, they have suggested guidelines to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

The members of the Board were the last ones on board for the mask mandate. You wanted to risk the health of Kansans with your personal opinion on health, instead of listening to the 13 doctors that testified. Start putting the health of our citizens first and not your personal feelings about masks. Follow the lead of Governor Laura Kelly, and Health Director Minns and openly support the safety measures they are trying to enforce.

I am asking that you implement the guidelines provided by the White House. I am asking that you help reduce the spread, help protect workers, families, and citizens of this state. I am asking that you choose the right side of history

Sincerely,

A very concerned Kansan

Sent from my iPhone”

Name:

Rukhsana Ahmed

Contact Information:

xxrukichanxx98@gmail.com

Received By:

This comment was received through the communications email.

Subject:

COVID-19 and Hookah Bars

Comment:

“I want to stay anonymous. I wanted to ask why the hookah lounges are allowed to stay open during the pandemic when they are far more unsanitary than most places. No masks are able to be worn while smoking and there are germs in the smoke being blown through the air. Hookah is a pipe you smoke from person to person, a water pipe that you blow in and out of contaminating it with germs. Pipes are shared over and over again throughout the night, basically inhaling germs of hundreds of other people that smoked from the device. Also it's not possible to truly sanitize it each time. So without having any real way of being sanitized each and everytime a person puts it in their mouth that seems like a huge issue. Even when using a responsible hose. Wouldn't this make it a hot spot for Covid19?”

Name:

James Kilpatrick

Contact Information:

jkilpatrickinc@gmail.com

Received By:

This comment was received through the communications email.

Subject:

Public Comment E. 20-21153

Comment:

“I have an appointment to speak at the 8-12-20 meeting. I will be referencing the attachments. It would be convenient if they had that understanding.

I will be asking for an end to Covid-19 restrictions.”

Name:

James Kilpatrick

Contact Information:

jkilpatrickinc@gmail.com

Received By:

This comment was received through the communications email.

Subject:

Public Comment E. 20-21153

Comment:

“I have an appointment to speak at the 8-12-20 meeting. I will be referencing the attachments. It would be convenient if they had that understanding.

I will be asking for an end to Covid-19 restrictions.”

Name:

Mary Vanve

Contact Information:

Gmvmev@mail.com

Received By:

This comment was received through online website.

Subject:

Police

Comment:

“We need more police in the Wichita Area as Wichita is growing. Defunding the police department the only cause loss of life and income for the city as businesses will leave without protection.”

Name:

Katie Rowe

Contact Information:

rowe13801@gmail.com

Received By:

This comment was received through online website.

Subject:

Budget

Comment:

“Please do not reduce funding for our police. We need to back the blue and the challenging job they have every day. Keep our community safe.”

Name:

Laurel Alkire

Contact Information:

laurela@seniorservicesofwichita.org

Received By:

This comment was received through online website.

Subject:

2021 Budget

Comment:

“I want to thank you for your continued support for senior programs, particularly for Meals on Wheels, Roving Pantry, Senior Employment and our four senior centers. Meals, Pantry and SEP continue to operate through this pandemic. New procedures were developed in Meals and RP to keep staff, volunteers and clients safe. Volunteers stepped up and staff assembled 20,000 shelf stable meals to supplement hot meal delivery. Our Senior Employment program continues to help job seekers by phone, on-line and by mail Last month they made 80 placements for the election and census. Only our senior center are closed. We will follow the Dept on Aging's guidance on reopening. I hope you will continue support in 2021. Thanks for all you do for us!”

Name:

Susan Lentz

Contact Information:

sjmlentz@sbcglobal.net

Received By:

This comment was received through online website.

Subject:

Do NOT Defund the Police

Comment:

“I love, respect and appreciate the officers and employees of the Wichita Police Department and also the Sedgwick County Sheriffs Office. I believe our community recognizes that the overwhelming majority of our local law enforcement personnel do their jobs responsibly with dedication and fairness. And they do it every day, faithfully and with courage. I fully support our local law enforcement and advocate for MORE resources to help them do their job and keep our streets safe from criminals. I DO NOT support the defunding of our local law enforcement”

Name:

Jane Keck

Contact Information:

janekeck@sbcglobal.net

Received By:

This comment was received through online website.

Subject:

Slow response to COVID test contact

Comment:

“Why was \$ given to county health not hiring enuf help to contact people in 1-3 days? Idea/ hire extra 2-3 people to contact negative results only since that is 3/4+ of results. Maybe contact thru basic info script attached to a text or email instead of a phone call - faster more easily catch up. Those people only want to know if negative. Common sense please Pozitive results only need the personal call since have questions. Again common sense can get things caught up. I would help /volunteer and probably others would to help get out of bound.”

Name:

Debra Olivas

Contact Information:

debfree2bme@yahoo.com

Received By:

This comment was received through online website.

Subject:

Excellent Phone Response

Comment:

“I am from Texas and called the Tag Office - 316-660-9000 many times today, trying to file the forms for a lost title. Those ladies are awesome, they were very nice and walked me through the website. I called like 4 times! Also I talked to Anessa in the County Manager Office and she walked me through where I could leave a comment! Great Team Wichita! Thank you Debra”

Name:

Christina Loveless

Contact Information:

Coltonsmommy84@yahoo.com

Received By:

This comment was received through online website.

Subject:

Business not following COVID guidelines

Comment:

“XLT ovens has had employees test positive for the covid and they will not announce or let others know that there has been a outbreak and threaten employees that they will be terminated if they tell other employees that they have tested positive. They refuse to let people take off work till they have tested positive and require them to still come in when they are feeling ill and they will then send them home after they feel they may be sick enough to go home.”

Name:

Bert Blue

Contact Information:

Ncf326@gmail.com

Received By:

This comment was received through online website.

Subject:

New requirement on alcohol sales and those businesses

Comment:

“You guys, collectively, are unable to make sound decisions. Does covid spread more rapidly after midnight? And only in businesses that sell alcohol? You are all morons, if you voted in favor of this. Stop abusing your powers, stop being so dumb. Do the math, look at the numbers, visit a hospital and see all the vacant beds and nurses playing games on their cell phones. Number of cases is not the right metric to measure. Pull your heads out of your arses.”

Name:

Rosemarie Gaston

Contact Information:

drgaston@cox.net

Received By:

This comment was received through online website.

Subject:

The face mask and closing of business establishments

Comment:

“I think giving Lacy Cruz the chairmanship was a huge mistake! How could you turn our city over to someone like her that will turn around an insult you all on the radio. This person I has no character!”

Name:

Jenny Duong

Contact Information:

jkduong2000@gmail.com

Received By:

This comment was received through online website.

Subject:

Mask mandates, COVID actions

Comment:

“I believe the city needs to do more in protecting its citizens against the corona virus. Seeing people wearing masks is great, but I still see those who wear it incorrectly or choose not to follow. There is no way in regulating these measures if no one will enforce them. I believe we should go back to phase 1 in order to keep our communities safe. Although the economy is important, I believe that saving lives are more important. Working has made me feel unsafe and scared. If a total shutdown is not possible, we need to go back to limiting 10 people per business area and asking people to stay home. I am extremely disappointed with our commissioners, I have emailed them over my concerns but I feel like I am not heard.”

Name:

Janet Robi

Contact Information:

JTRJayhawk@aol.com

Received By:

This comment was received through online website.

Subject:

Public Gatherings

Comment:

“Please consider that a limiting gatherings to 15 people needs additional thought. 15 people in "a room" is not the same as 15 people at an event venue such as Botanica, Art Museum, where safe social distancing can be enforced. You are destroying the lives of those practicing safe social distance by not considering sq footage per individual. Can't have it both ways - allowing church but not other gatherings.”

Name:

Janet Robi

Contact Information:

JTRJayhawk@aol.com

Received By:

This comment was received through online website.

Subject:

Public Gatherings

Comment:

“Please consider that a limiting gatherings to 15 people needs additional thought. 15 people in "a room" is not the same as 15 people at an event venue such as Botanica, Art Museum, where safe social distancing can be enforced. You are destroying the lives of those practicing safe social distance by not considering sq footage per individual. Can't have it both ways - allowing church but not other gatherings.”

