

**Written testimony from 5.29.20 regarding Phase 1 Executive Order**

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Members of the Council, I appreciate the opportunity to provide input on the Phase 1 opening plan.

I hereby request that the County's partial Phase I be amended to follow the State's Phase 1 guidelines. Specifically, open retail establishments to the general public at 50% capacity with safety guidelines in place. Curbside sales will not support a typical retailer's overhead and small business will realize notable, unnecessary financial consequences.

We all agree that safety is the top goal but would opening retail to 50% capacity jeopardize the safety of the citizens? It does not appear so since big box retail is open and packed with people. Please forward a detailed explanation of how opening small business to 50% capacity with safety measures in place puts the public at risk when other retail establishments are open.

Of 531 deaths, 65% are from nursing homes and 84% were over 65. The County states that a targeted approach based on demographics is not relevant because staff bring the virus into the nursing home and case load is much higher in younger demographics than older demographics. This is illogical from my point of view. The nursing home should be isolated, not the community. Nursing home patients are not the folks who are shopping and operating businesses.

Hospitalization rates are key and relate directly to case loads. The county has demonstrated that we have had sufficient hospital capacity throughout the pandemic. Please explain how hospital capacity has caused the county to limit small business to curbside.

Folks under 65 are at a low risk of dying from the disease. Assuming a population of 1,051,000, .008% under 65 have died from covid. For perspective, I respectfully ask the county to inform the public of the number of folks who have died in this age group annually from other infectious diseases.

I also would like to know if the State's medical advisor agrees or disagrees with the County's plan to adopt only a partial Phase 1? Has the county consulted with medical advisors in other states who have successfully open to Phase 2 and 3 and sought their opinions? This is important because the States and counties seem to using different science and metrics to guide them.

And finally, yesterday's event was unfortunate. Clearly there are many in the county who are suffering. Yes it would have been better if they did not constantly interrupt plus the language was unacceptable. But it should also be noted that Mr. Elrich and Dr. Galyles did

not handle this well either. While it was likely unintentional, their frustration came across as contempt for these folks which enflamed the crowd more. When one gentleman interrupted and said the constitution has no phases, Mr. Elrich rolled his eyes and appeared to mouth the word "moron". Is this helpful to the unemployed, the people in food lines and those going out of business? I don't think so. If we are all in this together we should start acting like it and consider the needs of all the citizens.