

We were told back in 2020 nearly 2 years ago that if we simply hunker down for two weeks to stop or slow the spread, we would have fulfilled our civic duty. That of course as we know was the ultimate lie as we now stand on the threshold of two years battling a political pandemic. A pandemic where actual science and data, depending on what study you analyze, contradicts itself and contradicts itself routinely. Even as many states around the country have returned to pre-pandemic society, it is astounding that Montgomery County continues to oppress its constituency with unscientific unreasonable and unending mask mandates. The data has already shown that those who have been fully vaccinated can easily transmit Covid to others and can also easily contract Covid again themselves perhaps even as a result of taking the vaccine in the first place. The data has also shown that there have been many reports of adverse side effects as a result of taking the vaccine. Moreover evidence has shown that natural immunity to Covid is far more effective than the vaccine at protection from the virus. Montgomery County Md has enacted some of the most restrictive and long-term mask mandates of any county in the country yet still has not reached the self-imposed goal of falling below a certain transmission rate. Yet the county continues to maintain what has already shown to be an ineffective strategy. This is mind boggling. All of that is bad enough but now we are on the threshold of perhaps the *most* questionable and contentious mandate of all which is the vaccine passport. A vaccine passport was unthinkable and unfathomable just a short while ago and now it is ensnaring our country while trampling on our constitutional rights to live and move freely as tax paying citizens and might I add very high tax paying citizens in one of the highest taxed counties in the United States.

The county looked the other way as thousands of Covid positive illegal immigrants were released all throughout our state and county even as the Covid variants ran rampant in our country. The county also seems to support radical voter overhaul laws which remove requirements to verify voter eligibility and voter identification. Verifying one's eligibility and verification that they are a US citizen who is legally able to vote in this country is somehow "suppression". Yet requiring someone to get a chemical injected into their body for the sole purpose of being able to identify themselves so they might be able to go about conducting their daily lives is considered "returning to normal" and "freedom"?

Montgomery County is following the radical progressive lead by engaging in tyranny instead of leadership; political hackery instead of following contextual data. We elect governments to lead us; not to control us least of all controlling what goes in and out of our bodies. Long-term studies have not been performed on this vaccine and we can only speculate as to what type of health impact these vaccines could have over the course of many years. Vaccines should be a choice; masks should be a choice. There is no one size fits all and Montgomery County should take heed and recognize this basic principle. Struggling businesses and individuals throughout the county who have already been decimated financially and otherwise by these outrageous lockdowns and local emergency ordinances will now run the risk of further damage by being placed into an impossible position of having to police their own patrons for vaccine status. Since when was our private health status a matter of public knowledge? And for that matter since when does it

determine whether or not we could buy/sell/patronize or have unrestricted passage in and around the county with our families and friends? No one should be discriminated against because of their personal health status.

We are entitled to our dignity and freedom to go and come as we please especially in a county that we pay so extremely much to live in. If someone is vaccinated and wearing a mask, what possible threat does someone who is unvaccinated and not wearing a mask pose to that person? No one can ever answer that question for me. I wish someone would just simply answer that question. If you can't feel confident in being vaccinated or for that matter wearing a mask then what the hell has this whole catastrophic government overreach been for in the first place? It is time for us to return to a place of sanity and to allow the residents of Montgomery County Md to take back their businesses/cities/towns and neighborhoods for themselves and not simply when the government says they can or can't. This is a fiasco. It is a local government failure of epic proportions and it needs to end now! I know that I speak for thousands of county residents when I say that if the county council proceeds with implementing a vaccine passport system, this will be the ultimate betrayal of a constituency that has already suffered so tremendously. And we will do everything in our power to replace every single one of you and to completely remove and replace the progressive monopoly that is destroying our county and our state bit by bit, day by day.

In closing, I implore the council to discontinue any and all mandates associated with the Covid pandemic immediately. I also ask the council members to seriously consider the grave threat to our civil liberties if the vaccine passport mandate is implemented. I urge every council member and particularly the county executive to refrain from this tyrannical unscientific unsubstantiated strategy of mitigating the Covid virus. Like all the other viruses and diseases out there we will have to learn to live with Covid without destroying our civil rights in the process. The county council will also run the risk of causing many of its most upstanding citizens [who contribute the highest amounts to the county's endeavors through exorbitant taxes] to flee the county and move elsewhere so as to regain their freedom of movement and civil liberties they've been stripped of. The county could lose massive revenue that has helped mitigate the Covid crisis in the first place by proceeding with these Draconian directives. It is not too late to reverse course and save the county's residents from further hardship. I plead with every council member to objectively review this testimony and to step away from their political ideologies for just a moment to do the right thing for the county. Returning to normal does not mean that we have 100% vaccination with every single person being vaccinated. Returning to normal means that the council members recognize they were elected to *represent* county residents, not *control* them.

Thank you for your time. It is much appreciated.