

September 25, 2020

Dear Lake Havasu City Residents and Business Owners,

There are several groups of concerned citizens who have begun to organize and speak out about the deception and coercion used by State and local governments, specifically Mayor Sheehy and City Manager Knutson to prolong the Covid-19 restrictions on individuals and businesses indefinitely. The adage “follow the money” is the driving force behind this charade of an on-going “Local Emergency Proclamation” that should never have been declared and does not exist in Lake Havasu to this day.

We encourage business owners to read the attached letter. As I stated in the letter. I am willing to provide evidence and testimony to support my allegations and will gladly meet with any individual or business owner to answer questions and provide such evidence. As a retired Police Officer, I know facts and evidence are what matters when trying to determine the truth, not politics, feelings, or fears.

We also encourage you to watch the September 22 City Council meeting during the “**Call to the Public**”. I give a statement outlining the letter you have received and how business owners and residents have been WILLFULLY and DELIBERTATELY lied to in order to prolong this “Crisis” to meet Federal and State funding benchmarks.

Additionally, you will hear from Kelly Austin, a Havasu gym manager who outlines in detail her experiences with the Mohave County Health Department. Most importantly, she describes how she was coerced into closing her gym under the color of authority by Lake Havasu Police Department at the direction of the City Managers office. **Our complaint is NOT with Lake Havasu Police Department.** Remember, the Chief of Police is appointed, not elected, and is employed at the discretion of the City Council. These officers took an oath to protect the constitution and were used as pawns for political purposes.

Some facts you should know:

Mayor **Sheehy’s proclamation is NOT a LAW** and as such, no enforcement action can be taken by the City to enforce ANY mask mandate, social distancing requirements, or any other Covid-19 State or County orders. A law must be passed by legislative process or an ordinance adopted before any enforcement action can be taken by the City. Their attempts to dress the July proclamation up in legal clothes has been unveiled as well as use of the police department to coerce compliance.

If you are not a business that is regulated by the State Liquor Board or the Mohave County Health Department, you **ARE NOT** required or mandated to follow ANY mitigation measures such as requiring masks, social distancing, etc.... Yet business owners are citing and displaying the Mayors proclamation as the justification for posting signs and requiring masks. Some businesses (restaurants specifically) have received funding to implement these measures. If you are not a business owner regulated by the Health Department or Liquor Board, **you have a choice** as to whether you post signs requiring masks.

Citizens are confused enough about the true nature of this virus, the law, and authority to enforce these mandates under the constitutional protections we all cherish. This has been by design. If you do not require masks and are not willing to enforce the wearing of one in your business, our recommendation to you is to **take the signs down!** Give people the choice and watch your businesses begin to thrive again. Obviously, there are people who have concerns about their health and if they choose to wear a mask, it is their choice as well and should **not** be harassed or shamed.

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WHY THE CITY/COUNTY ARE VAGUE ABOUT ENFORCEMENT:

State, County, and City officials are placing the responsibility and liability for enforcement on YOU. What the City does not tell you is that YOU as a business owner are assuming liability for **DENYING** persons with a disability (one of many exceptions for not wearing a mask) the right to shop in your business without being discriminated against. You may not ask what the medical or psychological reasons are. You are also incurring liability if you or an employee gets in a confrontation with a patron who refuses to wear a mask and violence erupts,

Bars, restaurants, salons, etc..... are under different regulations. If you are one of these businesses, we are actively pushing the City Council to rescind the original March 18 "Proclamation of a Local Emergency". The conditions for declaring this proclamation (Hospital Strain) never existed at Havasu Regional Medical Center and does not exist to date. When this proclamation is rescinded, Mohave County Health Department and the State Liquor License Agents will have questionable justification or authority for enforcing Covid restrictions on a City where it is declared that no local emergency exists.

Additionally, you need to know that the **Mohave County Health Department is using an antiquated and vague NUSANCE ABATEMENT ordinance** to assess fines and seek injunctions for non-compliance. Additional information is available about this as well as actions you can take to protect your businesses. The burden of proof shifts to Mohave County to show that a Local Emergency existed at the time they issued citations/injunctions. They have not demonstrated this up to now, how can they do it at this stage?

Help us help you! Most of us are NOT business owners- just citizens concerned about what has happening to our constitutional rights under the guise of a pandemic that has never materialized in Havasu to warrant a proclamation of a local emergency.

1. Decide how you will respond to this information and post notices accordingly. Please verify this information if you have concerns.
2. Share this cover page and attached letter. Feel free to duplicate and share this with other business owners and citizens. Digital versions are available. Watch and encourage others to watch the September 22 Public Comments portion of the City Council Meetings online.
3. If you choose to enforce a mask policy, **DO NOT post the Mayors proclamation or refer to it as a legal justification for requiring masks!** Simply post the requirement **clearly** and without reservation state that you will not allow entry or service without a mask per **your policy**, Enforce it by asking people to leave if they enter without one.
4. If you own a bar, restaurant, salon, gym or other business that was required to close under the governors proclamation and you were visited by a member of the Lake Havasu City Police Department and asked in any way to comply with State, County, or local proclamations, please contact me directly. No obligation. We believe there have been a sufficient number of businesses effected to warrant potential class action damages under Section 242 Title 18 U.S.C. (Deprivation of Constitutional Rights under the color of authority).

Thank you,

Greg Befort,

Concerned citizens of Lake Havasu. E:mail gregbefort@gmail.com