

To: Stevensville City Council and Mayor Dewey

From: Concerned Business Owners

RE: Agenda items 11A and 11b

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We as concerned business owners, who rely on traffic into our doors, are concerned about implementing more government into our small town. We would like to address two agenda items.

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11a—We do not agree with forming a local Board of Health in our town that is already under the Raval County Health Dept. jurisdiction. Is there a need for a City Nurse, Health Inspector or other jobs that this board will create? Who is paying for this? Our budget is already maxed out with current tax income. This is going to put a larger burden on all of Stevensville's businesses and city residents who already feel the current tax is too much. Our Ravalli County Health Dept and the County Sherriff Department have done a great job protecting us and dealing with the COVID-19 Virus during the pandemic. We don't need more control. As of today, the total case count for residents is .19% and current active cases are .027% for all of Ravalli County.

Creating a new position for the town for a Director of Community Development is another example of making more government for our small town of approximately 2000 residents. Is this necessary? Where are the funds for this position coming from? Higher taxes & fees? Creating more government is part of our problem not the solution! Taxing the business and community members more for unnecessary jobs that you create is not needed & ridiculous.

-Creating a mask mandate is the main issue we fee is not necessary. Who enforces it? We all have customers that have told us all how happy they are that we are open and if we require our patrons to wear face coverings, they will not come into our establishments. They feel this is a choice they want to make, not the town or the mayor. With business already being less than before, limiting more of our customers is just a bigger burden on us owners. We have already dealt with close downs, limited capacities and restrictions that have made business income more limited. Do you want to be responsible for one or more of our businesses closing due to what you deem is right? If individuals are afraid, they have the right to not come in to places that aren't requiring masks. Everyone should be able to exercise their own rights and beliefs and not be mandated. This is the UNITED STATES of AMERICA. It is not a law. As we have listed earlier, the case count is one of the lowest around. That shows that we all have done our part to date to help with the spread. Our local Sherriff's Office and County Health Dept have handled the cases as needed. Let them do their job. None of us want to have COVID-19 spread throughout our community or businesses, but we don't want our choice of how we handle our business taken away. We have built our successful, individual businesses doing it the way we way we choose. Let us keep that. SOUTH MAJORITY LEADER

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