

From: [Helena Francisco](#)
To: [Krystal Christopher](#)
Cc: [Chris Fonseca](#)
Subject: FW: Mandatory Masks council agenda meeting-Please read my email at council meeting
Date: Monday, July 6, 2020 4:21:45 PM

FYI

From: Nikki Barbieri [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 3:29 PM
To: Krystal Christopher
Cc: Mayor Bonnie Crombie; Chris Fonseca
Subject: Mandatory Masks council agenda meeting-Please read my email at council meeting

Dear Mayor Crombie,

I am writing to let you know that I am opposed to the proposed bylaw mandating masks for residents of Peel Region for indoor use.

I am the single parent of two children, one with special needs (autism, dev. delays, severe speech delays, and facial differences).

I would like to share a couple of my experiences I have had since your announcement last week.

Although we have a medical exemption we are facing discrimination when we try and patronize local businesses. We have been harassed by staff members and customers at stores who believe the bylaw has passed and have demanded we wear masks and use chemical sanitizer before entering.

I am having to be humiliated each day when I try to explain our medical exemption.

Just today I shopped at two local grocery stores. At one store I had a really pleasant discussion with the store manager. He said not to worry he is on top of the situation and understands NOT EVERYONE can wear a mask. He assured me his staff will be trained accordingly to be respectful in these situations.

Well, I had forgotten two-items so I decided I would pop into another grocery store to pick them up before returning home.

At the next grocery store the young lady stopped me (as I am sure she was instructed to do by her employer). She said masks are mandatory and so is the sanitizer. I said politely the bylaw hasn't passed and by the way I can show you my medical exemption as I was trying to be polite. She raised her voice to me in front of the other customers and again said NO, masks are mandatory. I asked to speak to the manager. I waited but he didn't come so I proceeded into the store. I found the manager and explained I had a medical exemption and I was treated rudely and humiliated by his staff. I asked if we could speak privately instead of the middle of the store. He didn't budge. He said "Well, imagine what she goes through being yelled at by customers all day? I said I, the customer am being harassed and there isn't even a bylaw in place AND I have a medical exemption. He walked away in a huff and started saying out loud "TOO BAD TOO BAD!!!!"

I do not believe your intention is to make the lives of special needs parents, medically exempt residents, and the deaf community's lives unbearable but please understand this is what is occurring in the City of Mississauga already.

I am opposed to mandatory masking for other reasons as well. If someone feels they need to wear a mask it should be their choice and it should not be imposed on others that cannot mask. There has to be standard information passed out to ALL businesses to STOP this discrimination on individuals that are already marginalized by society.

Please do the right thing and leave it to the individual to decide on whether to wear a mask or not. If you do not, please understand that it may lead to altercations and someone with a medical condition or disability that is not readily visible may incur injury.

Mayor Crombie, not everyone is able to wear a mask for prolonged periods of time without adverse reactions. Again, I ask you to take this into serious consideration.

Kind regards,

N.Barbieri