

Dear Mayor Holaday, City Councillors, City Clerk and Board of Health,

Thank you for your time and efforts to protect Newburyport from the coronavirus. As a health care worker, I am 100% on board with prevention and distancing, yet feel that local ordinances should be tailored to our community. It would be a mistake to over-correct by closing trails and streets and imposing a curfew, when a couple of easy targeted strategies will solve the actual problems. High level surveillance and fining seem unrealistic especially since a regional spike in cases is anticipated, which will further strain our first responders. It is currently a lifeline to families to be able to bike and walk and check on neighbors from a healthy distance. Mental and physical health are very important during this period and should not be discounted. I believe that our City's landscape allows for freedom of movement, assuming that a couple of reasonable strategies are implemented.

This is what I am seeing, and wonder if it reflects your feedback as well. I walk our dog daily and have seen people quite consistently adapting to the new rules as they evolve. Now, many wear masks and read the cues of others to step aside and give each other wide 6' berths. Unfortunately there are typical areas where distancing is a problem.....dozens of kids sneaking into the skate park, kids playing b-ball together at Perkins, others playing touch football at Atkinson common, people from separate families playing tennis, groups of families having fire pits gatherings with kids playing together.....THIS is what we should focus on.

Suggestions:

1. Remove remaining hoop rims or block them with wood. Block courts with surplus city vehicles. Consider signage at tennis courts allowing only family members. Fix skate park fence?
2. police perform rounds/drive-by of parks and neighborhoods, with education of citizens to disperse if needed.
3. (If police need help) citizens in park neighborhoods share job of walking by several times per day to check for kids congregating. It would be a chance to educate the kids and urge them to move on.
4. Increased communication of Mayor Holaday's effective messaging (community notification enrollment underway?) In the meantime, her message could be put out across all possible local email distributions of all city departments, schools, city councillors, nys, senior center, reverse 911, etc. Who cares about overlap/repetition/rights at this point?

With the above changes, I think the right balance can be achieved. Harsher punitive policies will encourage rebellion, and are not enforceable or sustainable for the weeks ahead. I think we can tweak the proposed ordinances a bit to achieve safety.

Thank you,  
Amy

And the following is my husband Brian Roberts' view in his own words:

"The part I oppose – enforceability and the basic fact that obvious interim measures have yet to be taken. Perkins Park still has basketball hoops up (we noted to Mayor two weeks ago and proposed a \$4 solution with 2x4s and screws that my buddy in Chicago sent), and has been a de facto skate park recently (ramps, tons of kids, delivery food coming in); the whole town are now suddenly tennis addicts and obviously touching the same nets over and over; the skate park has holes in the fence and is not being policed at all (despite notifications to police and city officials). Some kids in neighborhoods from separate families are in streets all day playing together unfortunately with parents who obviously don't take things seriously. Driving around would easily identify this.

My playing with my kid in a wide open field – say Cashman – is not dangerous. He's much closer to me in our house, and I am much closer to individuals at Market Basket. He's literally 60+ feet from me at Cashman and much further away from any other people.

Let's do the basic stuff first---- Police monitoring parks, patrolling streets and offering advice for people to get inside. This ordinance is a massive leap away from good judgment and feels like it is coming from the wrong angle—with impaired perception as to the actual present state of affairs and holes therein, and impaired judgment as to effective feasible solutions."



**To:** [byron@byronlanenbpt.com](mailto:byron@byronlanenbpt.com)  
**Subject:** Nbpt post office

Hello Byron, my name is Sarah Pawlick, Wendy Wilmot gave me your email and told me you wanted to hear more about my post office experience yesterday.

I went in yesterday mid-afternoon to mail a package. I was wearing gloves and a mask just like most people. When I walked in there was about four people in front of me in line. We were all standing 6 feet apart. Within five minutes about 10 more people walked in with packages. Everyone was circled around the front open area of the Newburyport post office trying to be a few feet away from each other. More and more piled in. You could tell that people were starting to get nervous, some even walked out. When I got to the booth after 10 minutes of being mortified I kindly asked the woman working if they had anyone working to monitor how many people were coming in. She firmly said no, so I asked if they had reached out to the police station to see if they would help with the situation. Again, I got a firm no. You could tell she was not interested about my concerns. Not to mention there was one more man working directly

beside her. There's multiple booths he could be working at to keep the distance or maybe have two lines. I stood no more than three feet next to the man at the booth right beside me. When I left the post office I decided I was going to call the police station to see if I could change this concerning matter. Even better, I saw an officer in the parking lot. I told him about the situation and he was very friendly but couldn't really do anything about the matter. I asked him if maybe he could just talk to whoever is in charge of the postoffice to put a bug in their ear about the matter, he said he will see what he can do. I as most people, am just trying to be cautious and look out for my community . Thank you for your time.

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Subject: [Ext]Proposed Ordinance - Covid19

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Dear Mayor and Councilors

First, thank you for the regular updates and I hope that everyone is staying safe and hopefully enjoying some time with their families.

With the exception of #2, I was bothered and sad to see the following "social distancing" ordinance proposal.

- 1) It prohibits gatherings of more than 10 people inside or outside.
- 2) Suspends any licenses and permits to use public properties for events.
- 3) It prohibits any individual from using any playground or play equipment, athletic or sports equipment or field, court, including tennis courts, basketball courts, baseball field, or soccer field
- 4) It prohibits anyone from being in public and standing, sitting, walking, jogging, running, or otherwise being located within six (6) feet of any other person with whom such person does not reside in a household.
- 5) It authorizes the health department, police department, animal control officer and parking enforcement staff to ticket and fine any resident found to be in violation of the ordinance. Fines originally ranged from \$125.00 - \$1000.00. The original first offender amount was reduced to \$25.00 by amendment, but the other amounts remained.

In a time of crisis or panic, there are several different ways to react.

Some people will look around them and see the incredible sacrifice that people are making in order to protect the greater whole. When I am outside for exercise or fresh air, I see the public doing a great job, given the circumstances. Giving up small things that are natural, like shaking hands or giving hugs. People are talking across cars and streets to maintain some level of socializing and yet maintaining physical distance. Parents are doing an incredible job of trying to balance exercise for their kids and at the same time make sure they understand the need for distancing.

Unfortunately, there are other people in a crisis that see the same thing and run it through a distorted lens of control. "Those people talking across cars are tailgating." "I think those

children were only 5 feet away when they passed by me, where is my yardstick?" Believe me, I know there are a ton of squeaky wheels (and I am sure you are hearing from them A LOT), I see them posting 4, 5 or 6 times a day on Newburyport Nextdoor saying people are not respecting "their" 6' and children especially. In my opinion, these people will never be happy until they can walk the rail trail, or walk in the park, or play tennis, with no one to bother them. Sometimes leaders just need to be able to turn off the noise.

As for ticketing and fining people, is that really where we want to be as a town? Do we really need to add that level of stress (and potential economic hardship) to our already stressed out citizenry? Are the police prepared to measure off every time someone passes someone else? If we close down the parks, fields and rail trail are we forcing kids to then ride bikes and exercise in the streets?

Please do not go down this slippery slope. I know that these are difficult times, all the more reason for calm and steady leadership.

Stay safe!

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Rick Doucette  
Vice President CarboFix USA  
GM Spine Oncology

President of Newburyport  
Girls Basketball Association

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To: Jared Eigerman <[jeigerman@gmail.com](mailto:jeigerman@gmail.com)>  
Subject: City Council deliberations

Jared -

I sat in for a part of yesterday evening's deliberations.

I really think the ordinance is not necessary, and a waste of the council's time at this stage. The language is hard to pin down, and the ordinance will be too hard to enforce. Based on the data (NYC 5 day trend, AJH Utilization) I believe our social distancing efforts are having an impact - not just locally but in hotspots as well.

My anecdotal observations is that most people locally are making their best attempt at practicing social distancing. More communication, constant reinforcement, signs are all needed, but escalating it to fines and a legal infraction is going too far - certainly 30 days into this. It's just not necessary. Should any individual, on a case by case basis, not respect social distancing guidelines, I believe the police can handle it inside their current constraints and protocol. I didn't hear a message that there was strong support for this ordinance from law enforcement.

A fallacy in the whole conversation is that rigid enforcement (even "stay at home" orders backed by legal repercussions) will result in faster recovery, and a major decrease in deaths. It is quite

the opposite. Our efforts at social distancing will flatten the curve - as you know - but that extends the pandemic time - not shortens it! It only eliminates deaths that may result due to overcrowding of ERs and ICUs - not all deaths as a result of the virus - a much smaller number.

We are clearly flattening the curve as a community. This is no time to let up on the social distancing message and encouraging people to give each other space. But there is no evidence that ramping up legal and financial consequences will have any impact - especially in our community! It may actually be counterproductive, and will most certainly cause social backlash by a large contingent of the citizenry. I believe there are a few loud voices that are aghast that people are leaving their homes at all, which this ordinance will not (and should not) address..

Please vote note "NO" and instead encourage more messaging, and increased signage.

Here's the data I am following to support my stand.

Thanks, Jared.

Jack Santos

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Public Comment from Bill Harris:

### **Outdoor exercise and safeguards for public health**

There are now a wide array of models of fluid dynamics and aerosols, including the dispersion of small particles from various viruses, SARS, COVID-19, etc. Gown and mask changing rooms show small particles containing COVID-19 in changing room air, etc. A study from fluid engineers in Hong Kong and a more recent study from MIT show risks of airborne particles remaining in the air for some time, whether by talking or coughing, plus inhalation by the approaching person. If you wish, copies of articles can be provided.

Yesterday, the Food and Drug Administration explained in a webinar [slides available if desired] explained the flexible Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) policies now in place for import and sale of personal protective equipment. Most masks available for non-hospital, non-EMT personnel will not protect against liquids. But they will reduce the distance and intensity of dispersion. So facemasks are recommended for all outside exercisers. These are not a substitute for social distancing. And recent experience indicates that the Rail Trail system is an inadvertent contamination hazard -- because groups are too close together and not respectful of safety needs of other Trail users.

While fines are theoretically appropriate, a better approach might be fines enacted but rarely enforced, plus remote imaging of locations where people congregate too closely, plus loudspeakers remotely operated by Newburyport Police Department to remind people that social distancing is essential. Otherwise, we will have higher rates of infection and prolonged COVID-19 peaking.

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April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020

To: Council President Eigerman, Councilors, Khan, Shan, Wallace, Connell, Devlin, Lane, McCauley Tontar, Vogel & Zeid

Re: ODNC056 An Ordinance to Prevent Contagion of the Covid 19 Virus in Public Places under the Jurisdiction of the City of Newburyport

I listened to the March 30<sup>th</sup> Emergency Council Mtg. webinar and appreciated the hard discussion on ODNC056. It led me to do some research and soul searching of my own. First, I read the responses to Councilor Lane and Khan's post on Facebook. Most responded in favor of ODNC056. Next I went to the city website and read all of the Mayor's Updates as there seemed to be some confusion as to whether or not parks were closed.

- March 17<sup>th</sup> Mayor Holaday closed public athletic fields, courts, skate park and playgrounds to discourage social gatherings. She went on to say, ' we cannot allow group gathering or any size on public athletic fields, courts, skate park and playgrounds. Residents can stay active by walking, running, hiking or biking while practicing social distancing''.
- March 23 the Mayor reached out again asking residence to strictly adhere to social distancing as we can all potentially carry this virus with little to no symptoms and unknowingly spread it to others in close distance.
- March 26<sup>th</sup> the Mayor shared we had 3 *confirmed cases* and brought up that residents have moved barriers to access playgrounds and athletic fields. She went on to stress the importance of social distancing and stated "please do not force us to close the rail trail because of lack of compliance.
- Robo call made – no date given Reminder playground and athletic fields remain closed. I would like to keep Rail Trail and other parks and open space open, but I will be forced to close them to the public if residents do not strictly adhere to social distancing.
- April 2<sup>nd</sup> Mayors Update 18 *confirmed cases*. I have pleaded with the community and especially teens to take this pandemic very seriously- people are dying. The virus lives for extended times on surfaces which is why we closed on the playgrounds. Yet kids continued to gather for games forcing us to remove basketball hoops and backboards from Cashman Park and Kent St. I also threatened to close the rail trail. There are teens using ball fields, hopping the fence at the closed skate park and congregating in groups. We have noticed improvements but there still needs to be greater compliance
- April 8<sup>th</sup> Daily News 26 *confirmed cases*.

I believe ODNC056 would help to enforce the Mayor's repeated notifications that the public athletic fields, courts, skate parks and playgrounds are closed. Reason: city cannot allow group gatherings or activities of any size in those locations because coronavirus may survive on surfaces for long periods of time and could contaminate equipment. Please note that the number 10 was never used – wording "activities – gatherings of any size"

I then read thru Governor Bakers updates. Common theme – stay home, stop the spread, and save lines and help health care professionals. Everyone should behave like they have the virus as we are still not 100% sure of all the ways virus can be spread. This is a respiratory unseen enemy. Doctors need time to gather information so virus is better understood and we can be better prepared in case this virus circles back.

Yes, many are doing their best to follow what has been asked, but a fair number are not. These folks are putting others at risk. The data is there that this virus can spread quickly. Also, keep in mind we are headed into allergy season. Those who suffer from this know – sneezing will increase.

I feel residents have been warned enough. I am not a fan of fines, but all parents know you can only warn so many times before you have to follow through or your words become meaningless. This is a world wide epidemic. Scientist are struggling to get a handle on how to control this. We all need to support those who are working on the front line of this every day – first responders, health care workers, staff who keep the city running, workers who keep the stores that can be open opened..... Please work together to find language you can all agree upon and pass this.

Possible suggestions:

(a) .....it shall be unlawful at, upon, or within any public building, public athletic fields, basketball courts, tennis courts, playground or beach under the jurisdiction of the city.....

- (1) For groups of any size to gather for any purpose on public athletic fields, basketball courts, tennis courts, playground or beach
- (2) For any person to use any playground or play equipment, or any athletic or sports equipment or field, court or other area, without limitation, a tennis court, basketball court, baseball field or soccer field. \* Fuller Field track may be used for walker, running, jogging as long as social distancing is followed.
- (3) For any person to stand, sit, walk, run or otherwise be located within six feet of any other person – I know the next part “who does not reside in a household” was problematic so treat it as if we all had the disease 6 ft apart– exceptions would be children in strollers, joggers pushed by adult. This way it is much easier to enforce. Just a thought

I would also request better signage at the fields and parks enforcing that they are closed and violators are subject to a fine.

I realize people need to get outside and move around. I feel even if this ordinance is passed we have miles of streets and neighborhoods that residents can walk thru. This ordinance won't last forever, but this virus can scar our city forever if we don't do everything possible to keep it contained.

Many thanks for taking the time to read and consider this.

Below is a copy of the notes I took from the Mayor's updates

<https://www.cityofnewburyport.com/covid-19update>

Jane Snow

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Subject: [Ext]COMMENTS ON: Proposed ordinance to ban public gatherings and imposed mandatory social distancing

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Dear Council Member;

The proposed ordinance, as reported in this morning's Daily News, while well intentioned, goes at least one step too far in terms of protecting basic civil liberties. practical enforcement issues, and public engagement in the process.

#### Civil Liberties:

- The section on social spacing is likely unconstitutional on its face, in that practical enforcement, particular for fines based on second and subsequent violations, would require individuals to carry ID, something not supported in federal or Massachusetts state law, at least as has been expressed in prior news articles, etc.

#### Practical Enforcement:

- The report in the Daily News includes a comment by Councilman Zeid about enforcement issues. He is exactly correct. Putting our police officers in the position of having to question folks simply walking outside will degrade their positive relationship with the public and sets a terrible precedence for police/citizen interactions where the people may begin to feel that the police have an absolute right to stop anyone at anytime and ask what they are doing.
- Just as critical, it violates a basic rule of governing - never pass a law you can't enforce and therefore weaken the overall authority of the enforcers. The 6 foot spacing section is not reasonably enforceable given the population density, the amount of area to be covered and the size of the enforcing authorities.

#### Public Engagement:

- The only broadly spread info on this ordinance is the article in today's Daily News. The agenda packet was posted less than 12 hours before the meeting and no public notice, other than posting on the web site, was made. The same is true for today's meeting. The Zoom meeting info is posted in the agenda packet (good), but is not widely circulated and assume the general citizen has access to a computer, understands what Zoom is and how to make it work.
- I imagine most folks were as surprised as I was to see something of this magnitude handled in this way - if there had been agreement at the first meeting, it would be a done deal with no time for input. And, while I agree there is an extraordinary situation, if it's that critical and if the impact is that important, we've got reverse 911. Particularly for an ordinance that, as originally proposed, would have imposed enforcement on noon the next day. How exactly was that info going to be spread?



There are two changes that would make the proposed ordinance more acceptable:

- Paragraph (a): Clearly define “right of way” does not including city streets and sidewalks or other public walkways. Facilities are easy to define, right of way is confusing and will complicate enforcement, If you need to include the rail trail, call it out.
- Paragraph (a)(3): Delete. Again - it’s not enforceable, will cause public/police relationships issues that outweigh the benefits and is very likely unconstitutional.

In addition, for an ordinance of this important, public notice needs to be widespread and immediate.

Finally - a personal note for Councilman Charlie Tontar: Charlie - you know me, and you know I’m not prone to extreme, impractical posturing. I know it’s a critical situation and I know it’s one that’s tough to manage. It’s frustrating to see the unaware, and the just plan uncaring folks who are putting themselves and others at risk. But the section on social distancing is simply too much.

Thanks for your consideration.

Keith

Keith R. Attenborough, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)  
18 Farrell St  
Newburyport, MA 01950  
978-223-8440

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Please read this into public record:

Dear City Clerk and Members of the City Council, I am opposed to this ordinance (ODNC056-04-06-2020). It is an overstepping of authority and unenforceable. I feel that the people of Newburyport are generally making good choices in complying with the governor's and CDC's recommendations for public safety and my family feels safe under the current guidelines. We want people to all stay safe of course, but we also need people to stay sane. A responsible jog, walk or bike ride helps people keep their sanity during these trying times, which is also a key element in keeping people safe. As we have closed so many public outdoor areas, people are being forced into fewer and fewer spaces and are doing their best to maintain physical safety as

well as mental health and safety. Please do not unnecessarily increase the stress of an already stressful situation.

Thank you  
Payton Garbarino  
34 Storeybrook Dr

"It is better to offer no excuse than a bad one." George Washington

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To: Jared Eigerman <[JEigerman@CityofNewburyport.com](mailto:JEigerman@CityofNewburyport.com)>  
Subject: [Ext]A solution to a problem we dont have?

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Councilor Eigerman,

I'm writing to express my opinion on the proposed emergency ordinance that has been laid out. Essentially this proposal sounds like a solution to a problem that, for the most part, we don't really have.

I truly believe that overall the people of Newburyport have been doing an excellent job at social distancing. That isn't to say there have not been a few outliers here and there, but I do think those have been the exception and not the norm.

With that said there are some components of the proposal which make sense while other components are problematic.

I fully agree about the suspension of permits etc for events and it makes perfect sense to discourage groups of 10 or more gathering weather inside or outside.

Restricting the use of playground equipment, skate park etc also makes sense... the contact surrounding these structures certainly seems as if it is a risk for transmission.

Regarding the use of fields, we certainly need to discourage groups (even small groups) getting together for games etc. At the same time however, I'm not sure how individual use of a field (or use between two family members) creates any increase of risk. As an example, two brothers tossing a football back and forth on a city field while otherwise keeping their distance from others creates no added risk.

Extremely problematic and concerning is that this would be giving city officials the go ahead to stop people without probable cause to ask for identification and prove residency. I think this concept is something that all of us should be uncomfortable with.

Regarding the penalties, I don't believe that we should be talking about imposing fines on people at a time when so many have lost their jobs and others are seeing their hours and wages reduced.

Lastly keep in mind that the more areas we “close” the fewer places there are for people to go. There will be an unintended consequence of more crowding as those who are out trying to keep their distance will have less space to do so.

I encourage you to vote this proposal down and start fresh by taking out the many problematic components it includes.

We can do a lot more with continuing education on social distancing and simply asking officers to instruct groups to move along and spread out.

Best Regards,

Eric Luck  
7 Tracy Street

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181 Longwood Avenue **Department of Medicine**  
Boston, Massachusetts 02115-5804 *Channing Laboratory*

**Jessica A. Lasky-Su, Sc.D., M.S.**

*Associate Professor of Medicine, HMS*

*Associate Biostatistician, Brigham and Women’s  
Hospital*

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*jessica.su@channing.harvard.edu*

April 7, 2020

**Re: Ordinance 56\_04\_06\_20**

Dear City Councilors of Newburyport:

I am a Newburyport Resident and professionally I am an Associate Professor and Epidemiologist at

Harvard Medical School and Brigham and Women’s Hospital, with a specialty focus on lung disease.

Throughout my 20+ years in scientific research and collaborative discussions with infectious disease

epidemiologist, the reality of what is happening with COVID-19 has been on our radar for years.

The current scientific research demonstrates that social distancing is imperative to “flatten the curve”

and indeed the extent to which we “flatten the curve” is directly correlated to strict adherence to social

distancing. I want to emphasize that lessening social distancing measures, even slightly, exponentially

increases overall exposure to COVID-19 within the community. With the current lack of comprehensive

COVID-19 testing, strict adherence to social distancing becomes even more imperative; and an effective mechanism through which it may be enforced is equally important. In our community, I believe

that the proposed ordinance would be extremely difficult to enforce, and may not accurately identify the most “high risk” offensive to social distancing. Other approaches, such as a strong visual police presence/monitoring in areas where social distancing challenges exist, may be a more effective strategy for enforcing the recommended social distancing measures.

Please note that the opinions expressed in this letter represent my own and not that of Brigham and

Women’s Hospital or Harvard Medical School.

Sincerely,

***Jessica Lasky-Su ScD***

*Associate Professor of Medicine,*

*Harvard Medical School and Brigham and Women’s Hospital*

*Channing Division of Network Medicine*

*Department of Medicine*

*Boston MA 02115*

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Subject: The first one was the polite email

Dear City Councilors,

I have heard back from a number of you, let me be blunt, and rarely, if ever, I am this direct (in fact, I never am) and as a reminder, I do happen to know a great deal about how government works.

I am close to 70 and I read the CDC website and the statistics and we won’t go into why I am one of those people, if I get it, I won’t make it, so, rightly so, I am a little terrified. Maybe some of you are not listening to Dr. Fauci, if you are not, I suggest you start. And the individual freedoms argument at this stage is just plain bullshit. It’s my life you are talking about here, and people like me. Please get on the planet and pass this ordinance. Two friends on a park bench, one of them may have the virus, pass it on and then pass it on to me when I go grocery shopping once a week. Unfortunately there is no lone boy in an athletic field, I wish that there were.

As Dr. Fauci has said over and over again, it is the communities that are the strictest, who don’t see the devastating spike in coronavirus cases (NYC vs Seattle) and the tragedy of overwhelmed hospitals and morgues (I cannot believe we are living in this world, it is just unbelievable, but we are, that is the reality). I don’t want to have that here and I want to be alive to see my grandchildren one day, and weirdly this is not a bizarre and alarmist thing for me to me to say, and if you think it is, go read the CDC guidelines again.

Again, rarely if every, am I this direct. Get on the planet, stop messing around with stupid stuff, and pass the ordinance.

Mary

Mary Baker Eaton  
Interactive history, story map of Newburyport  
[map.marybakerart.com](http://map.marybakerart.com)

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I am a citizen of Newburyport who is extremely concerned about the covid 19 outbreak. I listened to the emergency city council meeting with the expectation the city would have an effective plan prepared and ready to implement. I was compelled to write this response. It was maddening that after three and a half hours absolutely nothing was accomplished. I was just astounded at the ineffectiveness of the council in general. What it boils down to is that there is a national and global emergency.

I don't want to hear that someone didn't get enough time to read something or has a job. I don't need to hear or care whether someone is disappointed or feels that they have been disrespected. I don't know or care about your personal political views. I don't need to hear about due process. I even, amazingly, heard someone pontificate about the constitution. All I care is that people are getting extremely sick and dying. Your personal needs do not concern me. Social distancing needs to be enforced and the local police need to help. It does not put the officers in a difficult situation. They want to protect the public. That is why they went into law enforcement. Everyone on the council and the city respects and trusts the officers and their judgment. I certainly do. They can use this tool any way they see appropriate.

The fact that someone actually thinks nothing needs to be done is irresponsible and dangerous. I visit Maudslay State Park frequently. I observed many high school aged kids shoulder to shoulder. I saw a group of three kids two feet from each other. One of the boys actually spat on the ground. There was a second group of five sitting in a row inches from each other. I also observed middle aged women hugging and kissing each other while their kids were getting out of the cars. Whether that is anyone's jurisdiction is irrelevant. These are examples of what is going on in the city. In general people are doing a good job in Newburyport. However, all it takes is one group behaving irresponsibly to increase the number of cases and deaths. As of April 5<sup>th</sup>, out of 14 counties, Essex has the third highest number of cases according to MA DPH. Get something done and get it done now.

Thank you,  
Stephen Deffley, 6 Woodman Way  
Newburyport

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