

From: [Manda Tetzlaff](#)
To: [PH BOH Support](#)
Subject: 12/1/21 Board Meeting - 2021 Res-157
Date: Wednesday, December 1, 2021 7:39:41 AM
Attachments: [Sweden-Germany Mask Data.png](#)
[Blue Mask Label.png](#)

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Good morning -

I write to you in support of Agenda item #12 tonight, regarding 2021 Res-157 about the Dane County Mask Mandate.

I unfortunately can't attend the meeting tonight due to prior commitments, but I've spread the word far & wide (within Dane County) to friends, family, neighbors, business owners - to encourage them to attend or at least email their support of this resolution introduced by Weigand (big thanks to Weigand for bringing this resolution to the table).

Why is it that PHMDC is still allowed to keep pushing these mandates? They are not elected officials.

What will it take for them to stop extending these mandates? They keep moving the goal post. **The public is losing faith in them, and in you - the board - to make common-sense, logical decisions & help us move on from this.**

Why do you keep letting them extend these mandates? You are elected officials. Do what you were elected to do - represent your constituents, business-owners & individuals alike.

In the mandate, Ms. Heinrich says per Statute 252.03(1) she has authority - but that talks about communicable diseases NOT viruses, and says the health officials report to the "appropriate governing body" - which is you.

I have family all throughout the state - and **no other counties in the state have mask mandates like Dane County.** I know I've been fortunate, but a number of my ELDERLY and IMMUNOCOMPROMISED family members NATURALLY had covid, were NOT hospitalized, and they're fine. And they don't wear masks, they don't forego seeing loved ones (never have), we've had family gatherings and they were NOT super spreaders. Even others talk to me like living in Dane County is a punishment - no lie. They don't want to come visit Dane County because of our draconian rules. But guess what - Dane County residents travel all over the state & county & don't wear masks when they go other places, and they don't become super spreaders. **So how is it that when they come back to Dane County they magically need to wear masks to stay healthy, even though they've been healthy everywhere else WITHOUT a mask? Wearing a mask is not normal.**

And we're no longer in an emergency state. An emergency is "an urgent, sudden, and serious event or an unforeseen change in circumstances that necessitates immediate action to remedy harm or avert IMMINENT danger to life, health, or property." Imminent is defined as "ready to take place; happening soon." If we truly were in an emergency state to justify mask requirements, then EVERY person not wearing a mask would VERY SOON fall ill with covid - no matter what. And that's so not the case. Therefore danger is NOT IMMINENT, and DOES NOT constitute an emergency. If it were imminent, I'd know people left & right who'd been hospitalized over it (especially my non-masking family & friends) and even died - but yet I personally don't know any friends or family who've been hospitalized or died over this. Again,

not imminent.

You can't just keep relying on the number of "testing positive for covid" cases. Because this is a virus - the original intent was never to CURE COVID - it was to "slow the spread/flatten the curve" so that hospitals could keep up. Why can't hospitals keep up? It's not just because they're overwhelmed with covid patients - that's NOT it. Hospitals are short-staffed (they were short-staffed when pandemic began) especially with new vaccine mandates. Then you compound that with all the OTHER hospital needs (emergency surgeries, people putting off medical attention until it's too late), and you get overwhelmed. Here are links:

- https://newstalk1130.iheart.com/featured/common-sense-central/content/2021-11-24-vaccine-mandate-impacting-childrens-hospitals-care-for-waukesha-victims/?fbclid=IwAR1dJNNdZZEnrY4sNHLYS2l3t8Wep8I3SLknFdnmsO0G6Bm6mTL_QFZbjaA
- <https://www.nationalreview.com/the-morning-jolt/year-three-of-the-covid-19-pandemic-begins/>

And many people have now reached herd immunity - yes REAL herd immunity - and they have very little risk of re-infection. Even if they do it, they won't get sick enough to be hospitalized. And honestly - do you freak out anytime you hear of someone getting the flu? But it comes back every year & people test positive for it. There's no cure for the flu, but it DOES kill people too. But no you don't freak out over the flu - you just figure anyone sick with flu needs to stay home & suffer through sniffles or whatever for a few days, then they'll bounce back. That's all that positive covid tests are showing (except in extreme circumstances where people are hospitalized, altho covid may not be the only cause for them to be here). Here's a link to recent study on the effectiveness of herd immunity: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qczfMc2JS8E>

And don't say masks are to protect everyone else. That's not how this works. If people are afraid of breathing in other people's air, then let them wear mask - let them CHOOSE to wear a mask. But don't force it on everyone else.

Especially our children. My nephew is in 1st grade and he HATES wearing a mask. When he does wear it, it gets completely saturated and he chews on it and is constantly touching it and pulling it up and down. So at what point is it even doing him any good then? It's filthy! And he ends up breathing on others & others breath on him - and guess what, they've all been FINE.

The science does not support that normal masks are truly effective. Sure they may stop some spittle, but the actual coronavirus is SO small that it can still get through the mask but that's IF THE PERSON HAS COVID. If someone's healthy, then their air doesn't need to be filtered. And if someone IS sick with covid, they should stay home (which I think the country as a whole has become much more aware of the importance of staying home when sick.) And if you're worried about others being sick & getting you sick? Then YOU need to go out & buy an N95 mask & have it properly fitted to protect YOU against the virus - but leave me out of that.

1. **See attached diagram** of Germany (with heavy mask wearing/compliance) and Sweden (very little mask wearing/compliance). Their covid numbers are essentially the same.
2. **And here's a link to a recent study** in England & Scotland. https://www.zerohedge.com/covid-19/oxford-professor-official-data-shows-face-masks-made-no-meaningful-difference-infection?fbclid=IwAR3BswRqOE8s8HFofrWQFRUXcXQYOxwNKVyiQVP2UJas_IJO2SDd2rt-7TQ
3. Oh sure, **CDC can issue warnings to wear thick masks or N95 masks - but how many people are wearing those?** And you expect businesses to turn people away based on

QUALITY of mask? Probably not - you don't expect business workers to run up to employees and inspect every single mask, right? Ok then - we know many people wear masks that aren't thick enough.

1. [This study](#) is being touted as showing that WET masks stop a lot of droplets from getting through - that's great! But disgusting! How many of you walk around wearing wet masks?
2. PLUS - Mask studies are based upon those wearing masks properly. If you went into CostCo on a Saturday and counted how many people were wearing their mask 100% properly - that means 1) It's a thick enough mask, 2) apparently it's a wet-enough mask, 3) their mask is tight to their face - no gasps on the cheeks, nose, neck, etc. 4) mask is over their nose, 5) they don't have a beard or facial hair (because ask any OSHA-trained safety professional, they'll tell you beards allow air to get in & out of masks), and 6) how many of them (including little kids) are NOT regularly grabbing their mask and sliding it back up or messing with it? Tell me - what is that percentage of PERFECT mask-wearers? I would bet most of them are not wearing them properly. SO THEN WHAT'S THE POINT?? Viruses are still escaping.
3. And what about the warning on the blue (or whatever color they may be) "surgical" masks that even clinics give out that specifically says "...will not provide ANY PROTECTION AGAINST COVID-19." Seems pretty clear to me that even the mask manufacturers want no part of the fake "wear a mask to be safe" science. (See attached image)

I've lived in Dane County for about 16 years now. I've seen a lot, but this mask mandate by far has been the most devastating - it's tearing families, friends & neighbors apart. STOP the madness, STOP the mandate. Let's move on with our lives. Masks are not the answer.

Sincerely,
Amanda Tetzlaff
Sun Prairie, WI

From: [Heidi Wiley](#)
To: [PH BOH Support](#)
Subject: 2021 Res-157
Date: Tuesday, November 30, 2021 2:06:50 PM

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To The Board of Health for Madison and Dane County:

My name is Heidi Wiley, and I am writing in support of agenda item 12, 2021 Res-157, which will be discussed at the upcoming meeting tomorrow.

The board has not shared the science it is referencing in making decisions to impose mask mandates on the citizens of Dane County.

There has been no science presented to justify the decision to expand mandates to children ages 2y-5y when mandates previously applied only to those 5y and older.

There has been no science presented to support the decision to impose mask mandates and further to extend them.

There has been no data presented for what thresholds are considered worthy of ending or extending a mandate.

Res 157 urges you to immediately pull back the EO for face coverings until the public is rightfully informed of the data referenced for these decisions. Without this basic level of transparency and public involvement, the citizens of Dane County can only assume that the motives behind these orders are politically driven and imposed in the interest of political showboating and back-door dealings supporting private interests and having nothing to do with public health.

Sincerely,
Heidi Wiley

To the Board of Health for Madison and Dane County

Sent via email to phbohsupport@cityofmadison.com

Regarding [2021 Res-157](#) (Agenda item 12) for the Dec 1, 2021 meeting:

I am a resident of Dane County and Madison. I support the 2021 Res-157.

The endless face covering “emergency” orders instituted by PHMDC need to come to an end. It is allegedly for an “emergency”, but it has been almost TWO YEARS. We are tired of this micromanagement from PHMDC. The virus is endemic. We are learning to live with this virus, just like all other illnesses.

Face coverings impact everyday interactions negatively. Removing social cues and expressions has made interactions cold and sterile. We need to humanize each other again. PHMDC has overreached and overstepped. Despite their good intentions, this government draconian order needs to end now.

There clearly are no firm criteria for PHMDC to voluntarily end the order themselves. We need the Board to do something. There is seemingly no limit or oversight by the Dane County board or Madison common council to the actions of PHMDC that exceed their authority. Wis. Stat. § 252.03 doesn't provide her with “an open-ended grant of authority...What is reasonable and necessary cannot be reasonably read to encompass anything and everything.” The Board is derelict in its duty to rein in PHMDC and follow appropriate procedures to issue such sweeping and invasive mandates. If it went through that, it is doubtful there would be enough public support to maintain it.

Remember, removing the mandate does not prevent those who wish to wear a face covering from wearing one. We should be promoting how to live *normally* with a virus, and letting individuals make their own health choices.

Regards,

Kim Lawrence

To the Board of Health for Madison and Dane County

Sent via email to phbohsupport@cityofmadison.com

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There clearly are no firm criteria for PHMDC to voluntarily end the order themselves. We need the Board to do something. There is seemingly no limit or oversight by the Dane County board or Madison common council to the actions of PHMDC that exceed their authority. Wis. Stat. § 252.03 doesn't provide her with “an open-ended grant of authority...What is reasonable and necessary cannot be reasonably read to encompass anything and everything.” The Board is derelict in its duty to rein in PHMDC and follow appropriate procedures to issue such sweeping and invasive mandates. If it went through that, it is doubtful there would be enough public support to maintain it.

Remember, removing the mandate does not prevent those who wish to wear a face covering from wearing one. We should be promoting how to live *normally* with a virus, and letting individuals make their own health choices.

Regards,

Kim Lawrence

From: [Stacey Garbarski](#)
To: [PH BOH Support](#); [All Alders](#)
Subject: Board of Health for Madison/Dane County, 12/1/21 5pm **Agenda item #**: 11
Date: Sunday, November 28, 2021 7:50:58 PM

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Hello,

I am emailing to show my support for agenda item #11- the city ordinance to ban the declawing of cats.

Thank you,

Stacey Garbarski
103 n 7th St, Madison, WI 53704

From: [Ryan Czyzewski](#)
To: [PH BOH Support](#)
Subject: Comment for 2021 RES-157
Date: Tuesday, November 30, 2021 9:39:41 AM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I am submitting this public comment in opposition to 2021 RES-157. Let Public Health Officials perform the jobs and responsibilities they are trained and hired to do.

Ryan Czyzewski

Mount Horeb Trustee

From: [Laura Ehlers](#)
To: [PH BOH Support](#)
Subject: COMMENT for Agenda Item 12 (2021 Res-157)
Date: Tuesday, November 30, 2021 6:34:22 PM

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To whom it may concern:

The following is a comment I would like to submit for the Board of Health Meeting taking place on December 1st, at 5pm.

This comment is in regards to 2021 RES-157 Urging the Director of Public Health Madison Dane County to Pull Back Her Emergency Order Until Public Input and the Consent of the Governed Has Been Achieved

I support 2021 Res-157 and urge the Board to repeal the mask mandate.

The board refuses to share the science that leads them to believe that this mandate is the least intrusive option for our citizens. The concerns do not justify this restriction of freedom, without tailoring. The board has not been forthcoming with their justifications for this mandate, particularly for small children. There has been no science presented to justify the decision to expand mandates to children ages 2-5 years old as of August 2021. There has also been no science to justify that these mandates continue to be extended and renewed. Children have not been shown to transmit COVID at high rate nor do they become severely ill with COVID. This should have been celebrated, but instead our children are suffering due to restrictions. Children's mental health has declined significantly since the beginning of this pandemic.

Because your board refuses to explain their decision that these ongoing mandates are the least restrictive means for our citizens, we all question your motives for political control and gain. These decisions have furthermore been made by unelected officials without consulting the citizens of this county. It appears as though this board has grown accustomed to coercing compliance and it is past time for this to end.

To quote the recent "Shannon Robinson et al vs. Missouri Department of Public Health and Senior Services" case which found Missouri county health orders (very similar to the Dane County orders) to be unconstitutional, "Can it be said that COVID-19 knows to stop at specific county lines and does not travel over? It is completely irrational that, at this point in time, now that COVID -19 has spread across the globe, a first grader in Wildwood is not allowed to play sports, while a first grader in Jefferson County who lives less than a mile away is allowed to do so." Can't this too be said of Sauk County and Dane County?

Many of us parents of young children have opted to homeschool this year as a result of this seemingly unending mask mandate and there are more who desire to do so, but cannot leave their day jobs. Myself and many of my friends and family are strongly considering moving out of this county so that our children can live normal lives like the children in the rest of the state of Wisconsin have been allowed to do for months now. Please repeal this mandate and reinstate personal medical freedom.

Laura Ehlers (registered online for the meeting)

From: [Esther Martin](#)
To: [PH BOH Support](#)
Subject: Comment on issue 67236
Date: Tuesday, November 30, 2021 5:23:39 PM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I am a resident in Madison, and I want to comment on the continuation of the Mask Mandate. I applaud the PHMDC board for being attentive to what is best practices for disease mitigation. I support the continuation of the Mask Mandate.

Thank you, Esther Martin

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Esther Martin
esther.r.martin@gmail.com

Ingredients in Covid Vaccines

SYNTHETIC “messenger” RNA (called mRNA), which causes the cells to create toxic proteins called spike proteins; the synthetic RNA is resistant to enzymes that would normally break it down. The mRNA inactivates tumor-suppressing proteins, meaning it can promote cancer.

GRAPHENE OXIDE, nanoparticles that cause magnetism at the site of the injection as well as oxidative stress, DNA damage, inflammatory response, blood clotting, oxygen loss and necrosis. Discovery of unlabeled graphene oxide in the vaccines has led some scientists to call the vaccines bioweapons.

POLYETHYLENE GLYCOL (PEG), a type of antifreeze. Over 70 percent of the population has detectable levels of anti-PEG antibodies in the bloodstream, causing hypersensitive reactions to the compound.

TROMETHAMINE (tris), with side effects such as fever, allergic reactions, low blood sugar, racing heart-beat, confusion, hunger, weakness, passing out, numbness or tingling, trouble breathing, swelling in the arms and legs, tissue damage and weight gain.

SODIUM ACETATE, with side effects similar to tromethamine.

MONOBASIC POTASSIUM PHOSPHATE can cause blood in the urine, blurred vision, burning, crawling, itching, numbness, prickling, “pins and needles” or tingling feelings, changes in skin color, chest pain or discomfort, confusion, decreased or increased urination, dizziness, irregular heartbeat, fever, mood or mental changes, muscle cramps, nausea, nervousness, numbness and tingling, seizures, sweating, trouble breathing, unusual tiredness or weakness, and vomiting.

DIBASIC SODIUM PHOSPHATE DEHYDRATE can cause permanent impairment of kidney function leading to long-term dialysis.

POTASSIUM CHLORIDE is also used as the third drug in the “three-drug cocktail” for executions by lethal injection because it causes cardiac arrest.

Covid-19 and the 5g Connection

Many epidemiological observations and biological studies indicate that the disease called Covid-19 is actually radiation poisoning, caused by exposure to microwaves used in 5G wireless technology.

EPIDEMIOLOGY: Covid-19 first appeared in Wuhan, China when the city turned on 10,000 5G base stations; it “spread” to Spain and Italy as these nations deployed 5G technology; the country with the highest rate of Covid-19 illness and death is San Marino, which has had 5G the longest of any European nation; Covid then appeared in other European countries, in New York and major American cities, then smaller cities and rural areas (now delivered by satellite), and less industrialized nations around the world, following the roll-out of 5G in these locations.

BIOLOGY: Covid-19 and radiation injury--the symptoms are the same:

- Fever, chills and dry cough
- Loss of taste and smell
- Reddening of the extremities (“Covid toes”)
- Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS)
- Multi-organ hypercoagulation
- Hypoxia (lack of oxygen)
- Cardiovascular damage

HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF

Minimize exposure to 5G wireless technology; minimize cell phone use and turn to airplane mode at events and gatherings; turn off Wifi in the home, at least at night. Reduced exposure is especially important for growing children.

Consume a diet high in saturated fat for robust cell membranes, highly protective against EMF.

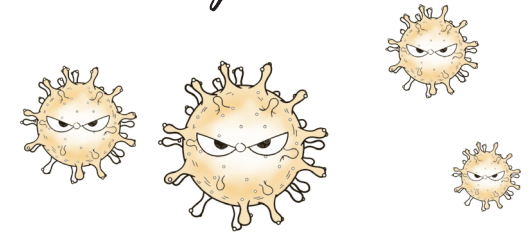
Consume an organic nutrient-dense diet to ensure high levels of fat-soluble vitamins (A, D, E and K2); vitamin C; all the B vitamins; and minerals like zinc, calcium and iron.

Consume raw whole milk as a source of vitamins, minerals, protective lactoferrin and usable glutathione, nature’s most important detoxifying compound.

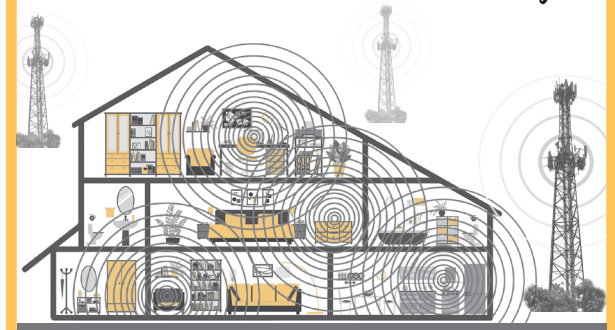
Avoid processed foods containing refined sweeteners, industrial seed oils, glyphosate and additives like MSG and aspartame. Avoid inhibitory pharmaceutical and recreational drugs.

Myths and Truths about Covid-19

Deadly Virus? or



5g Microwave Technology?



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Myths and Truths About Covid-19

MYTH: The disease called Covid-19 is just a mild version of the flu

TRUTH: Covid-19 can be a very serious disease, especially in the elderly and those with pre-existing conditions such as diabetes and heart disease. Many symptoms of Covid, including lack of oxygen, fizzing feelings, swelling of the extremities, tendency to form clots, and inability to smell or taste, do not occur with ordinary flu.

MYTH: Covid-19 is caused by a deadly virus.

TRUTH: Researchers have never properly isolated and characterized any “virus” said to cause disease. “Viruses” do not attack and “take over” our cells from the outside. Rather, extremely small, round bundles of RNA in a protein shell, called exosomes, form *inside* cells when the cells are under stress; these exosomes play helpful roles in detoxification and adjustment to the environment, actually protecting us against disease.

MYTH: Covid-19 is a contagious disease.

TRUTH: A study in Wuhan, China looked at data on almost ten million residents who took part in a screening program between May 14 and June 1, 2020. Out of these, three hundred tested positive but had no symptoms. Researchers followed these cases and noted that out of over one thousand close contacts of the asymptomatic positive cases, they all tested negative and none got sick. Researchers have yet to carry out studies with symptomatic sufferers—to expose sick people to healthy volunteers and see what happens—as public health authorities did for the Spanish flu in 1918. In that 1918 study, not a single healthy person became sick from exposure to those suffering from the Spanish flu.

MYTH: Masking and lockdowns have helped prevent disease and death.

TRUTH: States that have not required masking and lockdowns have had the same or lower rates of disease and death, compared to those that have required masking and lockdowns. New York, which has severe lockdown and masking measures, has a death rate of 274 per 100,000 while Florida, with no statewide masking requirement and only a short lockdown, has a death rate of 183 per 100,000—and Florida has a far higher percentage of elderly and retirees than New York. In Europe, the daily death rates are 50 times higher in Spain, 44 times higher in the U.K., and 22 times higher in France—all countries that imposed

masking and lockdowns—compared to Sweden, which has no lockdown, no masking requirements, open schools and open businesses.

MYTH: Wearing a mask can protect you against Covid.

TRUTH: More than a dozen credible medical studies prove that face masks do not work, even in hospital settings! Even if Covid-19 were caused by a virus (which it is not), the pores on the recommended masks are ten times bigger than any so-called virus.

MYTH: Wearing a mask poses no danger.

TRUTH: Analysis of face masks worn by children found eleven dangerous bacterial and fungal pathogens on the masks. Masks also reduce oxygen levels leading to headaches, reduced immunity, hypoxia and brain cell death.

MYTH: The PCR test can accurately determine the presence of Covid-19.

TRUTH: The PCR test is designed to identify small samples of genetic material using amplification cycles; it was not designed to diagnose disease. When a sample of nasal material is amplified 40 times, the results are usually positive; when the sample is amplified only 30 times, the results are usually negative. Thus, health officials can stipulate the number of amplification cycles to get the results they want, such as showing that the unvaccinated are testing positive and the vaccinated are testing negative. One Florida lab set the number of cycles so high that 100 percent of the tests came back positive!

MYTH: About 70 percent of Americans are fully vaccinated.

TRUTH: The Kaiser Family Foundation reported that as of May 11, 2021, the average vaccine uptake in the U.S. was just 32 percent. Most states have huge inventories of vaccines about to expire—hence the recent push for vaccine mandates.

MYTH: The Covid vaccine can prevent infection and transmission of SARS-CoV-2

TRUTH: In trials for the vaccine, manufacturers used statistical manipulation to claim that the vaccines had a 50 percent efficacy in preventing serious symptoms. They did not prove that vaccines could prevent infection and transmission. In a July 2021 outbreak in Provincetown, Massachusetts, 74 percent of those infected and diagnosed were fully vaccinated. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) then stated that Covid shots do not prevent Covid infection and transmission.

MYTH: Vaccines for Covid-19 are safe.

TRUTH: A leaked confidential document reveals that Covid vaccine maker Moderna received 300,000 reports of side effects after just a three-month period following the launch of their vaccine. Side effects are similar to those of Covid-19 itself and include widespread clots, swelling of the extremities, extreme fatigue, fainting, eye disorders including blindness, tumors, kidney problems, skin problems, paralysis, stroke, abnormal menstrual bleeding, birth defects and miscarriage. As of July 18, 2021, the European Union’s database shows 17,503 deaths and 1.7 million injuries (50 percent serious) from the vaccines. As of July 23, 2021, U.K. data indicate that fully vaccinated people are 65 percent more likely to be hospitalized and 1540 percent more likely to die from Covid-19 compared to unvaccinated people. In the U.S., as of August 2021, the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) has received 13,068 reports of death and 595,622 reports of adverse events following the vaccine. (It’s estimated that only about 1-10 percent of deaths and reactions are reported to VAERS.) About 360,000 U.S. teens age twelve to seventeen have developed myocarditis (swelling of the heart) after vaccination, many requiring hospitalization.

MYTH: Ninety-nine percent of new Covid-19 deaths are in the unvaccinated.

TRUTH: This claim, made by the Associated Press, June 24, hinges on mislabeling everyone who isn’t fourteen days past a second dose of vaccine as “unvaccinated.” Most vaccine reactions and deaths occur within days of the vaccination, but the article labels these as “unvaccinated.” In Israel, nearly 50 percent of new Covid patients are fully vaccinated. Analysis of recent CDC data shows that the number of cases among the vaccinated is 26 percent higher than the unvaccinated, and that 80 percent of the total hospitalized in the U.S. for Covid were vaccinated, while 20 percent were unvaccinated.

MYTH: Remdesivir is a good drug to take for Covid-19.

TRUTH: Promoted by Dr. Fauci of the NIH, Remdesivir is a toxic pharmaceutical drug that causes kidney poisoning and other organ damage. Side effects include the lungs filling with fluid—attributed to Covid but actually a dangerous side effect of Remdesivir. Meanwhile, hospitals have withheld natural, effective treatments for Covid-19.

From: [Cheryl Wittke](#)
To: [Mayor](#)
Cc: [Parisi, Joseph](#); [PH BOH Support](#); [All Alders](#); [county_board_recipients@countyofdane.com](#); [Bottari, Mary](#); [Vakunta, Linda](#); [Crawley, Katie](#); [Wescott, Joshua](#); [Heinrich, Janel](#); [Smith, Aurielle](#); [Robin Lankton](#); [Halverson, Jerry](#); [Corinda Rainey-Moore](#)
Subject: did Public Health, City of Madison and Dane County really intend to abandon injury prevention?
Date: Thursday, October 14, 2021 11:50:41 AM
Attachments: [PublicHealth.pdf](#)
[10074-0-2021-BP Sunstance Use Prevention.pdf](#)
[Safe Community Coalition FS short \(3\) \(1\).pdf](#)
[Proclamations_SafeCommunities \(2\).pdf](#)

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Dear Mayor Rhodes-Conway:

I was heartened to see funding for Safe Communities in your 2022 executive budget. Thank you. Until your budget was released, I wasn't sure how MedDrop, the African American Opioid Coalition, Stop the Overdose Epidemic Steering Committee, participation in Vision Zero, and injury prevention work generally, would continue next year. I'm afraid these programs remain in jeopardy, however, unless action is taken to prevent Public Health Madison/Dane County from diverting \$113,276 away from priorities outlined in your executive budget.

Last month, Public Health authorized release of an RFP through City Purchasing that effectively guts city and county support for injury prevention. Through this RFP, Public Health repurposed \$113,276 of funding designated by policy makers for Injury Prevention (\$20,000); MedDrop (\$15,000) and Drug Poisoning Prevention (\$78,276). According to the RFP, these funds will be awarded to one or more agencies for substance use prevention activities to be conducted during the 2022 fiscal year, with an option for a 2 year extension.

Preventing substance misuse is critical to a safe, healthy community, and is a component of Safe Communities' work. However, the new initiative should not come at the cost of support for injury prevention activities with a proven track record. Redirecting these funds amounts to a decision to abandon an initiative founded by City of Madison and Dane County leaders 22 years ago -- an initiative that has saved hundreds of lives from preventable injuries.

Injury prevention is a core public health function, and now more than ever, we need champions. Currently, local health care systems are engaged in their Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) review cycle. All are ramping up their focus on injury prevention, based on data showing an alarming rise in traffic crashes and overdoses, and continued concern over elder falls and suicides. I am hopeful that, by re-committing to injury prevention, the city and county will continue to play a leadership role at this critical juncture.

Here is what is at stake should city and county funding for injury prevention be eliminated.

- **The nation's only African American Opioid Coalition.** This coalition of African American leaders is addressing a spike in overdose deaths among Dane County's African American community.
- **Neighborhood-based traffic safety campaigns,** including free distribution of slow down yard signs and coordination of the pedestrian flag/Artful Crossings program.
- **Suicide prevention and substance use recovery supports for Dane County's Latino community,** including Spanish language call-in programs on LaMovida and virtual suicide prevention trainings
- **MedDrop** -- partnerships to coordinate and promote safe, environmentally friendly disposal of unused medicines.
- **Stop the Overdose Epidemic Initiative** -- award winning partnership to engage health care and treatment providers, peers, law enforcement and fire/EMS, youth and older adult-serving agencies in coordinated prevention, harm reduction and substance use recovery efforts.
- **Elder falls prevention:** our number one cause of injury hospitalization and significant factor in loss of independence for area older adults

I am concerned that city/county financial support is ending: 1) without your assent; and 2) while the Mayor's

executive budget still reflects a commitment to this programming. It is my understanding that these funds are slated to be awarded before the city's 2022 budget is adopted, a decision made without any deliberation by the Board of Health or elected leadership. An issue of this importance should not be undertaken unilaterally by any agency. I ask that you continue to fund these critical injury prevention services in the city's 2022 budget and beyond.

Thank you! Cheryl

Attachments:

- City of Madison Mayor's Executive Budget Summary (Public Health)
- RFP #: 10074-0-2021-BP, Title: Community Substance Use Prevention Initiatives
- Safe Communities 2020 audited financial statements
- 20 Year Anniversary Proclamations from City of Madison and Dane County, and World Health Organization (WHO) Collaborating Centre on Community Safety Promotion Agreement (scan)

--

Cheryl Wittke
Executive Director
Safe Communities Madison-Dane County
2453 Atwood Avenue, Suite 210
Madison, WI 53704
Tel: 608-256-6713
Fax: 608-441-3055
www.safercommunity.net

From: [Bk Wilson](#)
To: county_board_recipients@countyofdane.com; [Health](#); [Goldberg, Rachel](#); [Heinrich, Janel](#); [Brown, Devyn](#); [Compliance](#)
Subject: Enough is Enough - our Dane County Kids are hurting the MOST
Date: Monday, November 29, 2021 5:16:51 PM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Dane County Supervisors and Public Health,
Parents, grandparents, care-givers and students are saddened, disappointed and disgusted by last weeks decision to extend the Dane County mask order. PHMDC LIED to parents, superintendents, school boards and, most importantly, kids. Many of our teenagers were days away from having the same CHOICE, EQUAL treatment and health care rights as their high school peers outside of this county. My teenagers deserve and demand the same treatment in their public school.

Do you know that close to 80% of WI School Districts now offer a MASK OPTIONAL policy to all 4K-12 or some portion/grades in their district (and have since June or Sept)? We are more than three months into the school year in this county. Has anyone checked on these hundreds of WI schools, these thousands of students and staff that don't have mask mandates but rather mask CHOICE? How are these students doing? Should we not examine the active control group - isn't this SCIENCE?

I will end my email today with an alarming statement made last week by a doctor in our mental health community. Just days ago another teenager committed suicide in the Dane County suburb of McFarland. We've lost more children to suicide in this county than we will ever lose over COVID. Please stop and think about the mental, physical, psycho-social and academic harm the YEAR of forced masking is having on just our kids. Where is the fairness, the choice? Why are you punishing someone because of the zip code they live in or the public school they attend?

"We HAVE to start considering the social effects of masking on children. In age groups where children are able to be vaccinated, parents can decide how they want to proceed for their own children in regard to the vaccine (I.e. especially high school). Now that vaccines are available, we need to realize that there are real social disadvantages associated with masking that we may have deemed necessary and were okay with taking before. Now it's a completely different story and we are creating issues by ignoring these ongoing risks to social connections. As a psychologist, I am seeing it constantly and we need to be concerned. Social connections and a sense of belonging are highly protective of depression in adults and children. This needs to be considered immediately."

Please stop the order immediately and let the citizens of Dane County choose to mask or not.

The Wilson Family

From: [beth jefferson](#)
To: [PH BOH Support](#)
Subject: Enough of the Mask Mandate Control
Date: Tuesday, November 30, 2021 7:52:36 PM

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All Dane County Supervisors"

I am not able to make this important meeting, but please share my comments below with your members. . I have emailed several of the Dane County Supervisors with these same thoughts. Only 3 of you have responded.

The majority of people in Dane County , and almost everyone I talk with..... are angry, frustrated and the morale of Dane County's residents is seriously suffering from the extension of the mask mandate. This is effecting our children, our teens, our families, and our seniors.

IF wearing the mask slowed down the spread of Covid, then Dane County (the only county in Wisconsin to be fully masked for over 2 years) Dane County would be posting the lowest numbers of Covid in the state. I can only assume that this is not the case? However the Public Health Department of Madison will not publish any current data on these numbers. I invite you to try to find them...as they are not available for us 'commoners' to see. Since the onset of Covid the nightly local news blasted us with the number of DAILY new covid cases and the number of DAILY covid deaths. In the recent months, the news is only reporting on %s of new covid cases, and %s of deaths. This is misleading for sure. If we have one new covid case on Tuesday, and then two new covid cases on Friday ..they tell us the number of cases have increased by 50%. This is true but manipulative.

Furthermore, the 'vulnerable' in our society have some personal responsibility to take care of themselves. They should be vaccinated, wear a mask or stay isolated if they are at risk. I believe they have done this. My parents have done this. If they have not done this, it is their CHOICE. Vaccines and masks are plentiful, FREE, and available everywhere. Based on information from your own public health officials (that you say you trust) a mask and a vaccine is sufficient protection from covid. This is specifically why you have made us wear them for almost 2 years. So now those once vulnerable should be protected with their own mask and their own vaccine.

I am personally a double cornea transplant recipient. The risk for me to get a vaccine and wear a mask is far greater than contracting covid itself. And yet, because of the mask mandate you impose, the 'mask shaming' continues. I in fact, had covid two months ago and survived it with no issues. It was no more or less problematic than the flu.

If you believe it is the Public Health Departments job to be responsible for everyone's health... perhaps they should mandate not eating of junk food, drinking alcohol , smoking cigarettes or pot and consuming too much sugar. I am in the fitness industry and I can tell you that these are far bigger factors to bad health, than covid is to a healthy person.

It is is easy for you to say... it is not your job to make these decisions for Dane Country residents. You are correct...it is not anyone's job to make this decision about MY health. What happened to my body my choice? By NOT listening to your constituents, and not overriding this mask mandate YOU are condoning this over-reaching and continual behavior by your Dane County Health supervisor. She is NOT, by the way and elected official and not accountable to anyone!

I would ask you to be courageous and give us our personal responsibility back!

Warmest Regards
Beth Jefferson

From: mattsmithy17@yahoo.com
To: [Heinrich, Janel](#)
Cc: [Brown, Devyn](#)
Subject: Enough!!!!
Date: Wednesday, November 24, 2021 7:14:55 AM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

STOP GOING BACK ON YOUR WORD REGARDING THE MASK MANDATE! stop promising people they can have their life back to only at the last minute change your mind... again... for the 5th time. Your over reach and abuse of power has to stop



**HUMANE SOCIETY
VETERINARY MEDICAL
ASSOCIATION.**

November 29, 2021

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Dr. Jerry Halverson, Chair and Members
Board of Health of Madison and Dane County
210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd, #507
Madison, WI 53703

**RE: VETERINARY SUPPORT for prohibiting declawing of cats in Madison, WI
(File #67344)**

Dear Chair Halverson and Members of the Board of Health of Madison and Dane County:

I am writing on behalf of the Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association (HSVMA) to convey our strong support for ending the practice of declawing cats in Madison unless medically necessary to treat a physical illness, injury or disease. HSVMA is a national association of approximately 9,000 veterinary professionals—including 225 Wisconsin members—focused on the health and welfare of all animals, including companion cats.

Declawing is a painful, invasive surgery—a series of 10-18 separate amputations of the last bones of a cat's toes. Contrary to widely-held belief, declawing is not simply removal of nails. It is typically performed for convenience and to avoid possible damage to household items. However, declawing exposes the patient to risks of anesthesia, infection and blood loss, as well as chronic pain, nerve damage and lameness.

Research has repeatedly indicated a high post-operative complication rate of 50%. A 2001 study published in the *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association* found that 33% of cats suffer at least one behavioral problem after declaw or tendonectomy surgery. The study showed that 17.9% of declawed cats had an increase in biting frequency or intensity and that 15.4% would not use a litter box. Tragically, these are the primary behavioral reasons why cats are relinquished to shelters, where many face euthanasia. A prominent 2017 study in the *Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery* found that 63% of declawed cats had painful bone fragments remaining after surgery. This led to further exacerbation of permanent side effects, including back pain and litter box avoidance.

Scratching is a normal feline behavior. It removes dead husks from cats' claws, marks territory, and stretches muscles. Where scratching may be a problem, HSVMA advocates the use of humane alternatives. These are better not only for the cats'



health, but also for cat owners who are often not informed about the common, expensive, frustrating and potentially dangerous consequences of this misguided surgical procedure. Sensible alternatives include well-selected scratching posts, alternative furniture selection or placement, nail trims, training, and nail caps.

HSVMA joins the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) and American Association of Feline Practitioners (AAFP) in strongly opposing convenience declawing. Declawing has already been prohibited in dozens of countries worldwide. In 2019 New York became the first to implement a statewide ban prohibiting convenience declawing. If this declaw ban is enacted, Madison will join twelve other U.S. cities—Austin, TX; Denver, CO; St. Louis, MO; Pittsburgh, PA and Los Angeles, San Francisco, Santa Monica, Berkeley, Beverly Hills, Burbank, Culver City and West Hollywood, CA—in prohibiting this inhumane surgical procedure.

We strongly urge you and your colleagues on the Board of Health of Madison and Dane County to demonstrate your humane leadership by prohibiting cat declawing in Madison. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Susan B. Krebsbach, DVM'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the initials 'DVM' written in a slightly larger, more distinct font at the end.

Susan Krebsbach, DVM
HSVMA Wisconsin State Representative

From: [Jada Jacques](#)
To: [PH BOH Support](#); [All Alders](#); [Lemmer, Lindsay](#); info@pawproject.org
Subject: Legislative File 67344
Date: Friday, November 26, 2021 2:36:12 PM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello members of the Board and Council,

I strongly support Legislative File 67344: The proposed ordinance to prohibit removing or disabling a cat's claws by performing a declawing procedure,

Declawing is amputation, whether performed by scalpel, clippers, or laser. We believe there is never a reason to declaw for non-therapeutic reasons (that is, unless surgery were necessary to treat animals' medical conditions). Declawing does not keep cats in homes, a fact acknowledged by the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA). The state of New York banned declawing in 2019. Eight cities in California - Los Angeles, San Francisco, West Hollywood, Burbank, Santa Monica, Berkeley, Beverly Hills, and Culver City - plus St. Louis, Denver, Austin, Pittsburgh, and St. Louis County (MO) have enacted declaw bans. Veterinarians in the Canadian provinces of Nova Scotia, British Columbia, Prince Edward Island, Saskatchewan, and Newfoundland and Labrador have rejected declawing as unethical and inhumane.

Statistics publicly available from the cities having declaw bans, and from British Columbia, indicate that the relinquishment of cats to shelters in those cities, in the years since the bans were enacted, has not increased - in fact, the number of cats dumped in shelters has DECREASED consistently in the eleven to 18 years since the laws went into effect. The hundreds of veterinary hospitals operated by VCA and Banfield no longer offering declawing. Clinics certified by the American Association of Feline Practitioners (AAFP) and Fear Free are not allowed to declaw.

There is no reason to believe that declawing cats protects human health. The NIH, CDC, US Public Health Service, the Infectious Diseases Society of America, and the Canadian Medical Association, all have specifically stated that the declawing is "not advised," even for the animals of persons who are severely immunocompromised, including those with HIV. This opinion is echoed in statements on declawing published by the AAHA and AAFP.

We hope this ordinance will be successful and be a model for humane legislation in other cities.

Thank you,
Jada

Jada Jacques
University of Wisconsin-Madison | Class of 2021
jadamjacques@gmail.com | (920) 655-1158

From: [Susan Schroeder](#)
To: [PH BOH Support](#); [All Alders](#); [Lemmer, Lindsay](#); info@pawproject.org
Subject: Legislative File 67344
Date: Sunday, November 28, 2021 3:35:57 PM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I strongly support the proposed ordinance banning declawing of cats by any means...surgery, laser, etc. It is an amputation that can permanently deform, cause a lifetime of pain, and change forever the quality of life for the animals.

There is no evidence that declawing improves home life after surgery. Facts show that shelters are finding more homes for animals NOT declawed. Let Madison join other progressive cities around the world which have banned this in humane practice.

Thank you,
Susan Bichel
Stoughton, WI 53589

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Hannah Stellrecht](#)
To: [PH BOH Support](#); [All Alders](#); [Lemmer, Lindsay](#); info@pawproject.org
Subject: Madison Anti-Declaw Ordinance
Date: Tuesday, November 30, 2021 11:47:46 AM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

To whom it may concern:

I strongly support Legislative File 67344: The proposed ordinance to prohibit removing or disabling a cat's claws by performing a declawing procedure,

Declawing is amputation, whether performed by scalpel, clippers, or laser. We believe there is never a reason to declaw for non-therapeutic reasons (that is, unless surgery were necessary to treat animals' medical conditions). Declawing does not keep cats in homes, a fact acknowledged by the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA). The state of New York banned declawing in 2019. Eight cities in California - Los Angeles, San Francisco, West Hollywood, Burbank, Santa Monica, Berkeley, Beverly Hills, and Culver City - plus St. Louis, Denver, Austin, Pittsburgh, and St. Louis County (MO) have enacted declaw bans. Veterinarians in the Canadian provinces of Nova Scotia, British Columbia, Prince Edward Island, Saskatchewan, and Newfoundland and Labrador have rejected declawing as unethical and inhumane.

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There is no reason to believe that declawing cats protects human health. The NIH, CDC, US Public Health Service, the Infectious Diseases Society of America, and the Canadian Medical Association, all have specifically stated that the declawing is "not advised," even for the animals of persons who are severely immunocompromised, including those with HIV. This opinion is echoed in statements on declawing published by the AAHA and AAFP.

We hope this ordinance will be successful and be a model for humane legislation in other cities.

Sincerely,
Hannah

One year ago, many kids were still attending school virtually. Parents stood up advocated for their kids but were told over and over again, “Kids are resilient.” And while some kids were resilient, far too many were not. Educational gaps widened and depression and anxiety soared.

There was such a singular focus on the physical impacts of covid that everything else was largely ignored. Social development, quality education and emotional and mental health were forced down on the scale of importance and kids paid the price. We need to learn from that but I’m not sure we have.

While your child and my child might be okay with masks, not all children are and many of them probably can’t vocalize it. Children who were already disproportionately affected by virtual schooling are again put at a disadvantage due to masks. English Language learners rely far more heavily than we do on visual clues such as lip reading to understand and learn. What about children with IEPs for Speech and Language Development, children who already struggled reading social cues before the pandemic, kids with sensory processing disorders and those with hearing impairments? And what about all the four and five year olds trying to learn their letter sounds while they can’t see their teachers’ mouth and she/he can’t see theirs? Masks add additional hurdles for teachers whose jobs are already getting harder each year.

I also worry about the development of babies and toddlers who are in masked daycares all day. Around eight months of age, a baby’s focus moves from the eyes of the person they are looking at to their mouth as visual speech clues help them develop their speech and language skills. Have you thought about how masks will impact these babies? Once again, your kid might be okay but someone else’s might face language and development delays.

I’m certified to teach birth- 3rd grade in Wisconsin. The importance and impact of quality early childhood education cannot be overstated. We don’t yet know the severity of effects long-term mask wearing will have on learning but given everything we know about how kids develop and learn, it’s common sense to assume that some children will be negatively impacted. And is it really worth the risk? In Dane County, there have been 4,060 children test positive for covid in the 5-11 age range. Of those, 11 have been hospitalized and zero have died. I am worried that the cost of wearing masks is not worth the benefits, especially for those students who are most vulnerable. It has been far long enough and the high vaccination rate we have in Dane County should count for something.

From: [Bonnie Held](#)
To: [Health](#); [Goldberg, Rachel](#); [Heinrich, Janel](#); [Brown, Devyn](#); [Compliance](#)
Subject: Masking our children
Date: Tuesday, November 9, 2021 12:37:16 PM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Dane County Decision Maker,

I'm sending this message in support of "**100 Days of 100 SMILES**". As one of the Face-Covering decision makers at DASD I want to make sure you and Eric Runez are aware of and SEE the thousands of students across Wisconsin who are able to enjoy every school day Mask-Free with Mask Choice.

My family and DeForest students deserve the same choice and rights as their peers throughout Wisconsin. Please take action now and remove mask mandates on Nov 27th when the county order expires.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Held
Grandmother and Caregiver of DASD kids

From: [H](#)
To: [PH BOH Support](#); [All Alders](#); [Lemmer, Lindsay](#); info@pawproject.org
Subject: Needless Amputations - Please Read
Date: Tuesday, November 30, 2021 8:33:49 PM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Greetings Madison and Dane County Board of Health and Council Members-

Thank you in advance for your time in reading my email regarding Proposed Ordinance #67344 to end elective cat declawing; as a Dane County resident I am in strong support of this ordinance. Let's all just take a minute to look down at our hands, fingers outstretched. See that joint just below your fingernail? Now imagine having that whole piece of each your fingers cut off, no finger nail, no finger tips. This is what declawing is, amputating the last joint, not just simply 'removing a claw'. Now imagine living your life without having the tactile dexterity of your hands with those gone. Unable to navigate your world how you were meant to, or touching and feeling the warmth of your loved ones. When we do this to cats, we are selfishly depriving them of a multisensory factor of their life and arguably, what makes a cat 'a cat'.

If we are truly concerned about public health, then we need to be against declawing. A cat will give behavioral cues about their boundaries; some of which are subtle. However, if those indicators are not intelligible by the viewer, the claws are then used to communicate that a boundary is being crossed and needs to be respected. If you take that option away from them, they will learn that their next best option may be to bite. I think anyone in the public health community would agree that a cat bite is far worse than a scratch. For another reason, there is neuropathic pain endured post amputation that can cause litterbox misuse due to the pain of trying to dig or having those granules push on now tender areas. **Chronic pain is noted in 80% of people who have undergone amputations** (<https://www.amputee-coalition.org/chronic-pain/>). Also, if a cat can't scent mark through normal scratching behavior on scratching posts (they have scent glands in their feet) they may choose to scent mark in other ways, possibly by urination or defecation outside litterboxes. This can lead to owners getting angry and upset at this occurring, this then increases stress and induced fear in the household, which again may illicit aggression. Whose life is this benefiting?

There is just no excuse or reason for this to still be in practice. This day and age there are ample resources available to deter any unwanted behavior such as videos online, video behaviorist consultations, books, cheap cat furniture/scratching alternatives, and behavior modifiers you can readily search and buy off of amazon. How is surgically modifying/mutilating an animal still a standard practice? Would we be ok with an owner electing to remove all of their dog's teeth because they nipped at their child who pulled its tail? Or how about amputating a hind leg of a dog to keep it from jumping onto the bed? Where do we draw the line, as the above examples as well as declawing, are all major surgical modifications to an animal's natural state for the mere 'perceived' convenience of modifying a behavior.

We need to stop looking at cats like material objects within our households that we can choose to alter to our whim out of mere convenience, and finally start to look at them like the family members they are, that also experience pain, fear, contentment, and also enjoy play just as we do.

Anti-declawing is a worldwide movement, it is banned in entire nations and countries including Europe, Germany, Brazil, Australia, and many others. It is catching and gaining ground in the United States as well with it now banned in the entire state of New York amongst many other cities throughout the country. Madison and Dane County is a great progressive place to live and is why I have resided here in Dane county for the last 28 years. I strongly urge you to vote yes on this ban, to prove not only to our country, but to the world, that we are leaders and indeed one of the best places to live as we respect and put our animal's welfare over materialistic convenience.

Thank you for your time and support in this matter-
Holly Schroeder



*and sincere thanks from my feline friend, Lumos.



Advocates for Animals • A 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization

November 29, 2021

Board of Health for Madison and Dane County
210 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Room 507
Madison, WI 53703

Re: In Support of Proposed Cat Declaw Ban #67344

Dear Members of the Board of Health:

The Paw Project strongly supports Legislative File #67344, which will prohibit the inhumane and unnecessary practice of declawing in Madison. The Paw Project is a national nonprofit, veterinarian-run organization that has worked for 20 years to end declawing. Declawing is, most commonly, a series of amputations of all or most of the last bone of each of an animal's toes performed to prevent unwanted scratching. Declawing removes an integral part of an animal's anatomy and subjects animals to the risks of pain, infection, behavioral changes, and lifelong lameness. Safe and effective alternatives to declawing include simple training and other established deterrent methods. We urge you to vote YES on this proposed ordinance.

Declawing is common in the US and Canada, but it is illegal or considered unethical by veterinarians in most countries. The Paw Project partnered with New York Assemblymember Linda Rosenthal to pass the nation's first statewide declaw ban in July 2019. There are active anti-declaw bills in NJ, MA, PA, and CA in 2021. In recent years, public opinion regarding declawing has evolved due to educational campaigns and published evidence exposing the harmful effects of declawing. Eight cities in California, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Burbank, Santa Monica, Berkeley, Beverly Hills, West Hollywood, and Culver City, have prohibited declawing. Denver, CO, Austin, TX, Pittsburgh PA, and St. Louis, MO are other US cities to ban declawing. In the past three years, declawing has been prohibited in eight of ten Canadian provinces, Nova Scotia, British Columbia, Newfoundland and Labrador, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Prince Edward Island.

The American Association of Feline Practitioners (AAFP) forbids its certified Cat Friendly practices from performing declaw surgery. The AAFP states, "There is no current peer-reviewed data definitively proving that cats with destructive behavior are more likely to be euthanized, abandoned or relinquished. The decision (by veterinarians) of whether or not to declaw should not be impacted by these considerations." VCA and Banfield Hospitals, which operate many clinics in Wisconsin, will not perform declawing, which they consider below standard of care."

Much evidence exists that behavioral changes following declawing can result in the relinquishment of animals to shelters. The CDC and NIH advise pet owners to "not declaw" their animals since declawing is not an effective means of preventing opportunistic disease in immunocompromised individuals.

In 2018, a peer-reviewed scientific article in the *Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery* reported that "declawing increases the risk of long-term or persistent pain, manifesting as unwanted behaviors such as inappropriate elimination (soiling/urinating outside of the litter box) and aggression/biting. This is not only detrimental to the cat (pain is a major welfare issue and these behaviors are common reasons for relinquishment of cats to shelters), but also has health implications for their human companions, as cat bites can be serious."

We proudly support this ordinance, which will greatly protect animals and will end declawing in Madison.

Sincerely yours,

Jennifer Conrad, DVM, Founder and Director, Paw Project

From: [Todd Tams](#)
To: [PH BOH Support](#)
Subject: Proposed Cat Declaw Ban #67344
Date: Wednesday, December 1, 2021 3:20:32 AM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

November 30, 2021

Board of Health for Madison and Dane County
210 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Room 507
Madison, WI 53703

Re: Proposed Cat Declaw Ban #67344

Dear Members of the Board,

I am writing in support of proposed ordinance 67344. I am the chief medical officer for external affairs at Mars Veterinary Health, which operates VCA, Banfield, and BluePearl animal hospitals across the country. I have practiced nearly 45 years and have seen many progressive changes in veterinary medicine over the years. I am a firm believer that the time has come to stop all elective declaw procedures in the United States. I am happy to have lead the decision by VCA, in early 2020, to stop offering declawing procedures in any of our 900 hospitals across 45 states, including in Wisconsin. It was a decision based on current evidence and we reached it after having discussions with our veterinarians all around the country.

Our decision has been embraced and we have not looked back. Our clients are happy knowing that the well-being of their animals is our top priority, our staff are happy knowing that they will not be participating in the potential harming of animals and that they are working in hospitals that follow evidence-based medicine, and our veterinarians are happier knowing that they will no longer feel pressured by a small minority of clients into performing procedures that they are uncomfortable with. Our hospital staff have become well versed on educating pet guardians about how to live with cats that have their claws and about the potential ramifications of declawing which can include chronic pain (paws and back pain), aggressive behavior including biting, and inappropriate soiling. A scientific paper documenting these sequelae was published in 2018 (Pain and adverse behavior in declawed cats; Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery, Vol. 20(4), 280-288).

Declawing is an unnecessary practice. A growing number of cities around the country has either banned declawing or is strongly considering it. Contrary to what some people have thought would happen, there is no evidence that stopping declawing will lead to more relinquishment of cats at animal shelters. To the contrary, the relinquishment numbers are actually higher due to biting and inappropriate soiling/avoidance of litter box use. Declaw bans first went in to effect in our city of

Los Angeles in 2009 (Hollywood, Santa Monica, West Los Angeles) and since then the ban has widened to include all of Greater Los Angeles.

We have found that some clients seek us out because of our no declaw position; they know they can trust us with their animals because we aren't doing unnecessary and harmful surgeries on our patients. We call on all veterinarians to stop declawing cats. We hope that all veterinarians will choose their patients' well-being over profits. We must always focus on the wellbeing of our patients and prevent animal suffering to the best of our ability.

Thank you for the opportunity to weigh in on this important topic and the proposed legislation in Madison. Please feel free to reach out to me if I can answer any questions for you or be helpful in any other way.

Respectfully,

Todd R. Tams, DVM, DACVIM
Todd.tams@vca.com

From: [Hannah O'Neill](#)
To: [PH BOH Support](#); [All Alders](#); [Lemmer, Lindsay](#); info@pawproject.org
Subject: Proposed Ordinance 67344
Date: Monday, November 29, 2021 2:55:54 PM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello,

I strongly support Legislative File 67344: The proposed ordinance to prohibit removing or disabling a cat's claws by performing a declawing procedure,

Declawing is amputation, whether performed by scalpel, clippers, or laser. We believe there is never a reason to declaw for non-therapeutic reasons (that is, unless surgery were necessary to treat animals' medical conditions). Declawing does not keep cats in homes, a fact acknowledged by the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA). The state of New York banned declawing in 2019. Eight cities in California - Los Angeles, San Francisco, West Hollywood, Burbank, Santa Monica, Berkeley, Beverly Hills, and Culver City - plus St. Louis, Denver, Austin, Pittsburgh, and St. Louis County (MO) have enacted declaw bans. Veterinarians in the Canadian provinces of Nova Scotia, British Columbia, Prince Edward Island, Saskatchewan, and Newfoundland and Labrador have rejected declawing as unethical and inhumane.

Statistics publicly available from the cities having declaw bans, and from British Columbia, indicate that the relinquishment of cats to shelters in those cities, in the years since the bans were enacted, has not increased - in fact, the number of cats dumped in shelters has DECREASED consistently in the eleven to 18 years since the laws went into effect. The hundreds of veterinary hospitals operated by VCA and Banfield no longer offering declawing. Clinics certified by the American Association of Feline Practitioners (AAFP) and Fear Free are not allowed to declaw.

There is no reason to believe that declawing cats protects human health. The NIH, CDC, US Public Health Service, the Infectious Diseases Society of America, and the Canadian Medical Association, all have specifically stated that the declawing is "not advised," even for the animals of persons who are severely immunocompromised, including those with HIV. This opinion is echoed in statements on declawing published by the AAHA and AAFP.

We hope this ordinance will be successful and be a model for humane legislation in other cities.

Thank you,
Hannah O'Neill

From: [Jonah R.](#)
To: [PHMDC Communications](#); [Heinrich, Janel](#); [PH BOH Support](#)
Cc: [Weigand, Jeff](#); [Ratcliff, Melissa](#)
Subject: Re: Mask Mandate Justification
Date: Monday, September 13, 2021 11:55:25 AM

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Unless I am missing something, resolution 157 simply stated: " URGING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH MADISON DANE COUNTY TO PULL BACK HER EMERGENCY ORDER UNTIL PUBLIC INPUT AND THE CONSENT OF THE GOVERNED HAS BEEN ACHIEVED."

Not sure how asking for a democratic process to place mandates on a constituency "...suggests that public health decisions aren't based on science, facts, and data. That is simply not true and further spreads misinformation."

Asking for the criteria used to enact and then public opinion on the matter is far from misinformation. You should be ashamed of yourselves for purposely and publicly mischaracterizing these words.

Source: <https://www.channel3000.com/dane-co-board-of-health-speaks-out-against-resolution-calling-for-mask-order-to-be-revoked/>

Jonah Reason
108 Vintage Ln, Cottage Grove, WI 53527
608-886-3187

On Thu, Sep 9, 2021 at 2:29 PM Jonah R. <jjreason@gmail.com> wrote:

So another mandate with no publicized measure to justify it or how to relieve the mandate. Do you know how humans work? We need a goal to shoot for and ideally a justification as to why we are burdened with hitting a goal in a county with an 84% vaccination rate.

He is not my district supervisor, but Mr. Weigand is 100% correct. You NEED to ASK us what we want. I know we have the resources. The county is in the process of allocating \$7M of federal covid relief to buy a hotel property, build more tiny houses, and to lobby for relieving camping restrictions in parks for a homeless population of ~500 people. That's ~\$13,000/homeless person.

This lack of representation is a slippery slope.

Jonah Reason
108 Vintage Ln, Cottage Grove, WI 53527
608-886-3187

On Wed, Aug 18, 2021 at 3:25 PM Jonah R. <jjreason@gmail.com> wrote:

Hello, I am Jonah Reason. I recently moved back to Dane county after having grown up here until I was 18 and being away for 15 years.

I am curious under what criteria we have implemented the new mask mandate. I need specifics. What metric or metrics were used to justify the mandate? What were the metrics and what are the metrics to remove the mandate?

I am far from anti-mask or anti-vax; I've been vaccinated since March and wear my mask where required. What are we trying to accomplish with the mask mandate? The answer is not "get rid of COVID." That's probably never going to happen. So there must be a specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, and time bound measure to enact or retract the mandate. What is it?

I look forward to hearing from you.

Jonah Reason
108 Vintage Ln, Cottage Grove, WI 53527
608-886-3187

From: [Kristina Shope](#)
To: [PH BOH Support](#)
Subject: Strong Support for Repeal of Mask Mandate
Date: Tuesday, November 30, 2021 6:52:55 PM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Good evening,

I am writing in support for the repeal of the dane county mask mandate. I strongly support freedom of choice and what has occurred in Dane County is an infringement on personal freedom. Businesses, at the very least, should have the freedom to decide for themselves. Additionally, if businesses do not care than civilians should have the choice to decide for themselves. The fact that Dane County has enacted this unconstitutional and never ending mandate on its citizens and businesses without consent is absolutely appalling. I have already lost a best friend who moved out of state due to these recurring mandates and my husband and I will also have to make a very difficult decision in the near future. My son will turn two shortly and if these mandates are still in place then we will have no choice but to evacuate the area and move somewhere that supports our personal freedoms and choice. The fact that two year olds are forced to wear masks haunts me daily. This is literal child abuse and the fact that parents have no choice in the matter is absolutely infuriating and just plain sick.

I sincerely hope that this mask mandate is lifted soon so that I can rediscover what it was that drew me to Madison in the first place. Otherwise, my family will have no choice but to relocate.

Thank you,
Kristina Ehlers

From: [Sonia Kurhajetz](#)
To: [PH BOH Support](#); [All Alders](#); [Lemmer, Lindsay](#); info@pawproject.org
Subject: SUPPORT BOARD OF HEALTH AMENDMENT #11
Date: Monday, November 29, 2021 4:23:54 PM

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As a proud cat mama of two, full clawed kitties, **Vote YES on 67344.**

Thank you!
Sonia Kurhajetz
1431 Williamson St, Madison, WI 53703

From: [Marina Drake](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [PH BOH Support](#)
Subject: Support Cat Declawing Ban
Date: Monday, November 29, 2021 4:21:54 PM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Alders and Board of Health Members,
I'm writing in support of the cat declawing ban. Many countries, the state of NY, and several major U.S. cities now have banned declawing as both inhumane and unnecessary, and more and more veterinarians are refusing to do it. It's actually amputation and many cats suffer lifelong pain as a result; they can also develop aggression since they can't defend themselves. Once a common procedure, many veterinary professionals now oppose or advise against declawing. **The American Association of Feline Practitioners “strongly opposes”** the practice as an elective procedure. **The American Veterinary Medical Association discourages** elective declawing but leaves it up to veterinarians to decide what's best for the cat. Madison will be in the vanguard by banning declawing. I urge you to support the ban.

Sincerely,
Marina Drake
46 Dixon St
Madison WI 53704
608 241-3562

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["I see no logical argument for treating animals as if they don't suffer or as if they are without emotional needs. One cannot logically be disgusted by the slaughter of dogs or dolphins for meat but fine with the torture of pigs, cows and egg-laying hens. So given that our bodies can be beautifully nourished without animal products it only seems logical to be vegan." -- Karen Dawn](#)
[This website will help you get started: http://www.howdoigovegan.com/](http://www.howdoigovegan.com/)

~~~~~  
"Remember to be gentle with yourself and others. We are all children of chance, and none can say why some fields will blossom while others lie brown beneath the August sun. Care for those around you. Look past your differences. Their dreams are no less than yours, their choices no more easily made. And give, give in any way you can, of whatever you possess. To give is to love. To withhold is to wither. Careless for your harvest than for how it is shared, and your life will have meaning and your heart will have peace." --- Ken Nerburn

**From:** [jenniferk8](#)  
**To:** [PH BOH Support](#)  
**Subject:** Support Cat Declawing  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 30, 2021 2:49:13 PM

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I would like to write in support of the cat declawing ban currently up for vote.

Jenny Krapfel  
Madison, WI  
608-417-0235

**From:** [Rebekah Robinson](#)  
**To:** [PH BOH Support](#); [All Alders](#)  
**Subject:** Support for a ban on cat declawing  
**Date:** Sunday, November 28, 2021 8:29:55 PM

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Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hi,

I was so happy to hear that Madison is considering a ban on cat declawing. This unnecessary, cruel procedure is outdated and inhumane. Please pass the ban.

Thank you,  
Rebekah Robinson  
District 9

**From:** [Adam Hills-Meyer](#)  
**To:** [PH BOH Support](#)  
**Subject:** Support for ban on cat declawing  
**Date:** Monday, November 29, 2021 4:40:55 PM

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Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hi folks,  
I wanted to voice my support for the proposed ban on cat declawing in Madison. Elective declawing is a cruel, unnecessary, and inhumane procedure. I'm surprised that we don't have an ordinance like this already in place. There is always time to do the right thing, and I strongly encourage you to support this ban.

Thank you,  
Adam Hills-Meyer  
5405 Sudbury Way, Madison, WI 53714  
6083327632



**From:** [Mariah Smith](#)  
**To:** [PH BOH Support](#)  
**Cc:** [All Alders](#)  
**Subject:** Support for Ordinance 67344  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 1, 2021 7:59:47 AM

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Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

To Whom It May Concern,

I am sending this email in support of banning feline declaws in the city of Madison. As a veterinary professional, I have seen first hand the affects this procedure has on the overall quality of life of cats who have been declawed. This includes chronic pain due to arthritis of which many likely go untreated because it is sometimes difficult for owners/pet parents to decipher pain response in cats. For this reason, I am in support of this ordinance that would ban declawing in Madison, WI.

Thank you,

Mariah Smith, CVT

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**From:** [Tom Christensen](#)  
**To:** [PH BOH Support](#)  
**Subject:** Support of resolution 157  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 30, 2021 7:50:12 PM

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Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

As a Dane County Supervisor....I am asking you to vote yes on putting resolution 157 on the agenda for the next Dane county Board Meeting. The extension of the mask mandate is completely unfounded and unnecessary. I am a small business owner and travel extensively around the state. I also have a background in business analysis. It would be beneficial if the decision came with a full set of data justifying the decision. The data on the website leaves more questions than answers. This is simply an unelected official imposing her will and taking our free will away. Something many in my family fought for.

The people in Dane county that want to get a vaccine have gotten it. The others who have exerted their free will have not and will not get them. That is their right to choose. I had covid two months ago and it was less difficult to manage than a mild case of the flu. I am 60 and I believe it was mild for me because I have chosen throughout my life to make smart health decisions. I am in very good shape and have never smoked or done drugs. Again these are choices I made, not government mandated requirements. Why then are you exposing us to additional health issues in Madison???? Seriously??

You are causing a great deal of harm to the people that live in Dane County. Those of us who choose not to wear a mask, because of the restriction to air flow and the danger of breathing in your exhaled gasses, during exercise, and wish to participate in indoor sports are unfairly punished. This is causing obesity (the leading contributing factor to deaths by covid)..depression and running many businesses out of business.

What exactly are you people trying to accomplish? If you tell me to protect the health and well being of people in Madison then these are just words unsubstantiated with real science. We were told the vaccine will solve the problem. Then we are told we need a booster. Now an executive at Pfizer said in an interview that they are not tracking the number of breakthrough cases but people would be shocked if they knew the actual number. By the way this is one of the statistics I am referring to earlier. This mandate has also been imposed by an 'unelected' official, under the cover of 'health emergency'.

I am no longer going to frequent any business that requires a mask. I have also spoken with many people around the state that tell me they will no longer visit Madison because of the mandate and increased violence. I will do my shopping out of Dane County and you will lose tax revenue. Normal life actually exists outside Dane county where freedom to choose is still practiced.

Please...Please have the courage to vote YES on the resolution and restore our right to have self determination and eliminate the Tyranny one unelected official has on us.

Tom Christensen

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**From:** [CYNTHIA ZOOK](#)  
**To:** [PH BOH Support](#)  
**Cc:** [info@pawproject.org](mailto:info@pawproject.org)  
**Subject:** Vote YES on 67344  
**Date:** Friday, November 26, 2021 1:32:10 PM

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Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Re: December 1, 2021 hearing of Legislative File 67344 at Board of Health for Madison and Dane County

**I strongly support Legislative File 67344: The proposed ordinance to prohibit removing or disabling a cat's claws by performing a declawing procedure.**

Declawing is an amputation and de-knuckling, whether performed by scalpel, clippers, or laser. We believe there is never a reason to declaw for non-therapeutic reasons (that is, unless surgery were necessary to treat animals' medical conditions, e.g., cancer). Declawing does not keep cats in homes, a fact acknowledged by the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA). The state of New York banned declawing in 2019. Eight cities in California - Los Angeles, San Francisco, West Hollywood, Burbank, Santa Monica, Berkeley, Beverly Hills, and Culver City - plus St. Louis, Denver, Austin, Pittsburgh, and St. Louis County (MO) have enacted declaw bans. Veterinarians in the Canadian provinces of Nova Scotia, British Columbia, Prince Edward Island, Saskatchewan, and Newfoundland and Labrador have rejected declawing as unethical and inhumane. **I have friends in Sweden, Germany and England where declawing is illegal and they cannot fathom that mutilation of a cat's toes is done for human convenience. Puppies that dig in the yard do not have their toes amputated to prevent this behavior that is natural to them, rather, they can be trained with positive reinforcement, as cats can be trained to scratch surfaces designated for them.**

Statistics publicly available from the cities having declaw bans, and from British Columbia, indicate that the relinquishment of cats to shelters in those cities, in the years since the bans were enacted, has not increased - in fact, the number of cats dumped in shelters has DECREASED consistently in the eleven to 18 years since the laws went into effect. The hundreds of veterinary hospital operated by VCA and Banfield no longer offering declawing. Clinics certified by the American Association of Feline Practitioners (AAFP) and Fear Free are not allowed to declaw.

There is no reason to believe that declawing cats protects human health. The NIH, CDC, US Public Health Service, the Infectious Diseases Society of America, and the Canadian Medical Association, all have specifically stated that the declawing is "not advised," even for the animals of persons who are severely immunocompromised, including those with HIV. This opinion is echoed in statements on declawing published by the AAHA and AAFP.

I hope this ordinance will be successful and be a model for humane legislation in other cities in Wisconsin and in the US.

Respectfully,  
Cynthia Zook, Wisconsin Resident