December 8, 2020

Dear Citizens of Glenns Ferry,

I would like to ask everyone to step back and think about how we treat each other, especially during these trying times.

I have received numerous calls from both sides of the CDH draft order. The issue of should we be wearing masks, social distancing, restricting travel, attending large gatherings during the holidays, and allowing businesses to remain open has been a very complex and debated question.

No matter what side of the issue we may be on, we do not have a right to harass or threaten someone because they are OR are not wearing a mask or observing any other mandate in which they think will protect their families.

I was appalled to hear that one of our citizens was verbally attacked in one of our businesses by someone that thought wearing a mask was wrong. Those that do not want to follow the advisory of wearing a mask, are not wanting to be told what to do, should be the first ones to respect the rights of others who choose to wear a mask or follow the guidelines issued by CDH. It is a two-sided coin. We all have a right to choose how we protect ourselves and our families, and it should not infringe on others. Elected officials should turn down the heat and defend everyone’s rights.

I encourage us all to avoid social media’s rhetoric that one sees every day and allow our fellow citizens to exercise their right to make their choices on protecting themselves and their families as they see fit. I choose to wear a mask in groups and follow the advice of my doctors. It is my right to do so as it is yours, whichever the side of the coin you are on. No one has the right to assault or harass a citizen about wearing or not wearing a mask. I will immediately contact the sheriff and ask for an investigation into any assault, verbal or otherwise that I witness.
This city is a peaceful and tolerant community where we choose to live our lives with respect for one another and are always there to help our neighbors. This pandemic is not much different than many other challenges we have faced in years past and may face in the future. We need to face this challenge as a community. Respecting each other and supporting those who become ill. We can do this folks; it takes courage, calm thinking, and kindness.

This is a joyous time of year. Do not let COVID steal this away from us. Reach out to the community and help where you can. Many of our neighbors need help. We can help them and be safe at the same time.

My wife Sammy and I wish all of you a truly Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Sincerely,

Monty R. White
Mayor

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