

**SUPPORTING MASK-WEARING AS AN IMPORTANT MEASURE TO LIMIT THE SPREAD OF THE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)**

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**WHEREAS**, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention believes that the spread of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (referred to in this preamble as COVID-19) occurs primarily through respiratory droplets;

**WHEREAS**, research shows that shedding of the virus that causes COVID-19 can occur 2 days before the onset of symptoms;

**WHEREAS**, research conducted during the COVID-19 pandemic has shown the utility of wearing masks in providing protection against the transmission of respiratory infections;

**WHEREAS**, various types of cloth masks, including masks made of cotton, gauze, and other fabrics, reduced infection rates among health care workers and others during the Spanish Flu pandemic of 1918 and the Manchurian plague of 1920 through 1921, and were used by health care workers and others to protect against tuberculosis in the 1930s and 1940s;

**WHEREAS**, a study published on July 9, 2008, that tested the efficacy of homemade face masks in reducing respiratory infections among the general population concluded that any type of general-use mask is likely to decrease viral exposure and infection risk on a population level;

**WHEREAS**, on April 3, 2020, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommended that the people of the United States wear nonmedical, cloth masks in public places;

**WHEREAS**, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has found that cloth face coverings fashioned from household items can substantially reduce the dispersion of exhaled droplets and provide acceptable breathability;

**WHEREAS**, a survey conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention from May 11 through May 13, 2020, found that 76 percent of adults support mask-wearing outside of the home and a survey conducted in November to December 2020 in the cities of St. Francis and South Milwaukee found that 67% of adults surveyed support mask-wearing without a mandate;

**WHEREAS**, a study published in BMJ (British Medical Journal) found that mask-wearing by both infected individuals and the contacts of those individuals to be 79 percent effective in reducing COVID-19 transmission:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Common Council of the City of South Milwaukee:

- (1) hereby recognizes the importance of mask-wearing in limiting the transmission of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (referred to in this resolution as COVID–19);
- (2) hereby recognizes that medical-grade masks should be reserved for use in health care settings and among vulnerable populations throughout the COVID–19 pandemic;
- (3) hereby recognizes that mask-wearing should be coupled with other measures recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and State and local public health agencies, including frequent handwashing and physical distancing, to further reduce the risk of COVID–19 transmission; and
- (4) hereby encourages the residents of the City of South Milwaukee to wear masks in indoor public places, in accordance with the guidelines established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, at times when physical distancing is not allowable to protect against unknown transmission of COVID–19.
- (5) hereby encourages businesses within the City of South Milwaukee to adopt mask requirements and pledges to support the enforcement of such requirements.

Introduced and adopted at the regular meeting of the Common Council of the City of South Milwaukee on April 7, 2021 by a vote of \_\_\_ in favor and \_\_\_ against.

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ERIK BROOKS, Mayor

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KAREN KASTENSON, City Clerk

ADOPTED: \_\_\_\_\_

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_