



July 15, 2020

Mayor G.T. Bynum
Councilor Vanessa Hall-Harper
Councilor Jeannie Cue
Councilor Crista Patrick
Councilor Kara Joy McKee
Councilor Cass Fahler
Councilor Connie Dodson
Councilor Lori Decter Wright
Councilor Phil Lakin
Councilor Ben Kimbro, Chair

Re: Proposed Mask Ordinance

Dear Mayor Bynum and City Council Members:

Respectfully, I would like to request your support in voting in favor of the mask ordinance as proposed by Mayor Bynum. I can say without reservation that requiring masks or facial coverings is mission critical if we are to safely reopen schools this fall. In fact, Union's Board of Education unanimously approved our School Re-Entry Plan for 2020-21 on Monday night, and it requires the wearing of masks at school by all Union teachers, staff, and students.

Our teachers have expressed their concern about their personal safety in the classroom, so the wearing of masks will not be optional at Union. As Tulsa's and our state's growing number of Covid-19 cases continue to escalate, it is important that we take a countywide approach to wearing masks. This minimal measure requires little to no sacrifice in order to prevent further community spread.

Should our community not curtail these alarming numbers, I have grave concerns about schools being able to safely open in August. We must take this disease seriously or it is going to set us back in our attempts to get our students back in school.

That's why I respectfully ask that you approve the mask ordinance being proposed this evening.

Sincerely,

Kirt Hartzler, Ed.D., Superintendent
Union Public Schools