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Resolution No. 495

Opposing Changes to the State's Roadmap to Recovery
COVID-19 Response and Re-opening Plans

WHEREAS, since mid-March, 2019 the Forks community, its businesses, its schools, and its civic institutions have been living with directives, declarations, interpretations, and Olympia-centric plans associated with the nation's response to the COVID-19 pandemic;

WHEREAS, said pronouncements from the Governor have been everything from helpful to infuriating, constructive to confusing, and cooperative to antagonistic to efforts to provide a unified and cohesive COVID-19 response in Clallam County and on the West End;

WHEREAS, efforts made in Clallam County, and particularly on the West End, have ensured one of the lowest infection rates with some 150–200 positive cases, and no West End deaths to date;

WHEREAS, this ten month effort has been the direct result of concentrated collaboration by the citizens of the West End, the Forks-Beaver Area 1 Emergency Operations Center (City, Fire Department), the Quillayute Valley School District, the Forks Community Hospital, the Quileute and Hoh Tribes, Peninsula College, the Department of Corrections, Forks Chamber of Commerce, the Forks business community, and Clallam County, particularly the Department of Health and the Emergency Operations Center;

WHEREAS, the arbitrary decision in Olympia to impose a regional approach to the well-developed and successful Clallam and Jefferson County partnership has created barriers to our two counties' recovery that will further erode the economic underpinnings of our West End communities;

WHEREAS, this arbitrary decision to force Clallam and Jefferson counties into a region with Kitsap and Mason counties has created a situation where the large urban counties of King, Pierce, and Snohomish are able to advance to a more "open phase" in spite of King County having more new COVID-19 infections in the first few days of February than all of the infections in Clallam County to date;

WHEREAS, Senator Van De Wege, and Representatives Tharinger and Chapman noted that they, and many of the citizens of the West End "have lost faith that the governor is on a course to safely open Washington and beat COVID-19."ⁱⁱ

WHEREAS, this situation has caused many to question City government and its staff as to why our rural community is being punished by the Governor, only further eroding faith in both local and state efforts;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Forks City Council:

1. Joins the 24th District legislative delegation, the Clallam County Commissioners, and the other jurisdictions in Clallam and Jefferson that have voiced their frustration and opposition to the urban-driven, and urban-benefitting, Roadmap to Recovery; and,
2. Requests an immediate Phase II reopening plan that is fair and sound, reflecting the significant differences between the Puget Sound and the Olympic Peninsula; and,
3. Joins in commending our community's citizens, businesses, and institutions in their persistent efforts to reduce the spread of COVID-19, resulting in significant sacrifices of liberty, happiness, and economic opportunity.

Passed this 8th of February 2021 by the City Council of the City of Forks.



Tim Fletcher, Mayor



John Hillcar, Council



Juanita Weissenfels, Council



Joe Soha, Council




Jeff Gingell, Council



Mike Gilstrap, Council



Attested to:
Audrey Grafstrom, Clerk



Approved as to Form:
William R. Fleck, Attorney

ⁱ See *Seattle Times Graphic – COVID-19 in Washington State* – 1 Feb and 4 Feb showing an increase between those two dates of 1,051 new COVID cases. As of 4 Feb 2021, Clallam County had 944 cases to date for the entire pandemic.

ⁱⁱ See Statement by Senator Kevin Van De Wege and Representatives Tharinger and Chapman dated 29 Jan 2021, and Letter from Clallam County Board of Commissioners dated 2 Feb 2021.