




# City of Ocala

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Date: August 10, 2020

To: Jay A. Musleh, City Council President

From: Reuben Kent Guinn, Mayor 

Re: Veto of Ordinance # 2020-47

Pursuant to Sections 2.13, 2.14 and 3.03 of the City of Ocala Charter, I am vetoing Ordinance # 2020-47 Requiring Face Coverings for Indoor Locations in order to Control the Spread of Covid-19; Providing for Penalties and Enforcement; Providing for Applicability and Conflict; and Providing for an Effective Date, for the following reasons:

1. It violates the First Amendment Freedom of Religion. The government cannot have you declare your religious beliefs in order to exercise your freedom of religion and as a means to being free of not wearing a government mandated mask.
2. The government cannot declare a church a business.
3. A person does not need to document or demonstrate a medical problem to be exempt from wearing a mask.
4. The burden of the violation is unfairly placed on the owner, not the person not wearing the mask.
5. Government cannot mandate a medical device to be worn.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 352-572-0312 or [kguinn@ocalafl.org](mailto:kguinn@ocalafl.org)

c: Patrick G. Gilligan, City Attorney  
 Robert W. Batsel, Jr., Assistant City Attorney  
 Justin Grabelle, President Pro Tem  
 Brent R. Malever, City Council  
 Matthew Wardell, City Council  
 Ire J. Bethea, City Council