




# Fairbanks North Star Borough

MAYOR'S OFFICE

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## MEMORANDUM

To: Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly

From: Bryce Ward, Mayor 

Date: August 13, 2021

Subject: Veto – Resolution 2021-30



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Pursuant to FNSBC 2.04.060, I am administratively vetoing Resolution 2021-30 for the following reasons:

1. The requirement to wear masks only in the Assembly chambers conflicts with the broader Borough COVID-19 mitigation strategies, which specify that face coverings are only recommended in Borough facilities.
2. Enforcing the requirement to wear masks only in the Assembly chambers will not be helpful in building and uniting our community and will breed division.
3. The Borough has other policies (such as staying home if sick, social distancing, etc.) that are proven and widely accepted as mitigation tools in our community. Additionally, we encourage community members to get vaccinated.

cc: Jim Williams, Chief of Staff  
Jill Dolan, Borough Attorney

/jw

By: Mindy O'Neall  
Introduced: 08/12/2021  
Amended: 08/12/2021  
Adopted: 08/12/2021  
Vetoed by Mayor Ward: 08/13/2021

FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH

RESOLUTION NO. 2021 – 30

A RESOLUTION REQUIRING THE WEARING OF MASKS IN THE MONA LISA DREXLER ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS WHEN THE STATE OF ALASKA COVID-19 RESIDENT CASES ALERT LEVEL IS HIGH

WHEREAS, Alaska and the Fairbanks North Star Borough has seen increased COVID-19 case counts and the prevalence of the Delta Variant, and all regions are in a high alert status; and

WHEREAS, According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the majority of individuals transmitting the Delta Variant are unvaccinated, and the lower the vaccination rate the higher the risk for transmission in that area. The Fairbanks North Star Borough is currently in an area of substantial or high transmission; and

WHEREAS, The CDC recommends people who live in an area of substantial or high coronavirus transmission wear masks in indoor public spaces, regardless of vaccination status; and

WHEREAS, The CDC recommends vaccinated people with vulnerable household members, including young children and those who are immunocompromised, wear masks indoors in public spaces; and

WHEREAS, Local health officials have cautioned against surges in hospital patients and the capacity to treat COVID-19 patients, having sent some patients out of state for treatment; and

WHEREAS, According to the Alaska Travel Industry report on economic loss, the Interior lost 6,400 jobs and \$180 million in labor income between 2019 and 2020 due to the widespread transmission of COVID-19; and

42 WHEREAS, The FNSB relies on and supports the incorporation of military  
43 personnel within the community and the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) is requiring  
44 face masks in communities at high risk of COVID-19 transmission amid rapid spread of  
45 the more contagious Delta Variant, of which the FNSB is classified; and

46  
47 WHEREAS, The FNSB community anticipates the influx of students to the  
48 University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) and UAF has instituted a masking policy on campus  
49 while the community is in a substantial and highly transmissible status; and

50  
51 WHEREAS, The coronavirus pandemic will continue to ebb and flow with  
52 varying degrees of harmful impact to individuals and the FNSB should adapt mitigation  
53 strategies accordingly to prevent community spread; and

54  
55 WHEREAS, The Mona Lisa Drexler Assembly Chambers is a public space,  
56 often shared by large groups and should be safe for all members of the community to  
57 engage with their local government; and

58  
59 WHEREAS, The FNSB has continued to offer online capabilities for all  
60 members of the public, commissioners and assembly members to participate in public  
61 meetings regardless of reason; and

62  
63 WHEREAS, By following CDC's recommended guidance for all individuals  
64 (regardless of vaccination status) to wear a mask in indoor public settings, the Borough  
65 will continue to provide a safe working environment for all staff, keep facilities open for  
66 the public, and minimize the spread of COVID-19 in our community.

67  
68 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Assembly of the Fairbanks  
69 North Star Borough requires that masks be worn in the Mona Lisa Drexler Assembly  
70 Chambers when State of Alaska COVID-19 Resident Cases Alert Level is High.

71  
72 ADOPTED THE 12<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF AUGUST 2021.

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74  
75 *[VETOED]*  
76 \_\_\_\_\_  
77 Mindy O'Neall  
78 Presiding Officer

79 ATTEST:  
80 *[VETOED]*  
81 \_\_\_\_\_  
82 April Trickey, CMC  
83 Borough Clerk

84 Yeses: Sanford, Lyke, Williams, Cooper, O'Neall  
85 Noes: Tomaszewski, Wilson, Cash, Lojewski