



Ottawa County

Corporation Counsel

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August 29, 2021

Senator Roger Victory

The Office of Senator Victory senrvictory@senate.michigan.gov

Representative Luke Meerman

Rep. Luke Meerman (District 88) lukemeerman@house.mi.gov

Representative Bradley Slagh

Rep. Bradley Slagh (District 90) bradleyslugh@house.mi.gov

Dear Sen. Victory and Reps. Slagh and Meerman:

You have expressed your opinion on limited mask mandates in Ottawa County in 2021 to the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners (BOC). Attached is my opinion to the public questions about what the BOC can and cannot do in this situation. As you know, over 250 people rose to speak in public comment at the last BOC meeting, virtually all believing that the BOC can do something about this subject, despite my opinions.

Given your interest in the matter and service to these people, including the Commissioners, this is to formally request that you exercise your authority and request the staff attorneys at the Michigan Attorney General's Office review my opinions and offer their own. Attorney General Opinions at the request of legislators are a time-tested way for our governmental system to illuminate controversial legal issues. I can't think of any issues more controversial or timely than these. We intend to post this letter on our website to show that the BOC is doing everything in its power to obtain the correct legal answers to these questions, and we will post your cooperative efforts as well to obtain a governmental second opinion.

Thank you for your service and for your interest and cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,
Very Truly Yours,

Douglas Van Essen
Ottawa County Corporation Counsel

Cc: Ottawa County Board of Commissioners