May 10, 2020

To:
Mike Karbassi
Fresno City Councilmember
District 2

Subject: Please take a stand for your district

Dear Mike,

I am concerned that you have allowed fear to override your responsibility to protect the rights of your constituents. As you are aware, businesses in your district (such as The Waffle Shop) are getting fined for opening, even while attempting to implement safe practices. I believe your rug store is allowed to open now, but what about your neighbors in the barber shop? My husband and son would have patronized them twice during this time. Just think how much income they have lost! Are you okay with Donut Fantasy getting fined if they allow someone to sit down (as Waffle Shop was), or if Me 'n Ed's is fined for pouring a patron a beer while they wait for their order (as Pismo's was)?

I suppose those are rhetorical questions, but I do have a serious one that needs to be answered by every public official acting to continue enforcing state and local SIP orders. Why is Fresno not acting in concert with the data? Our ICU's have only had two days in which more than 15% of the ICU was filled with confirmed or suspected COVID19 patients; and on those two days, it "surged" to as high as 18% ICU capacity. From what I can tell, the hospitals in Fresno County are ready for a surge, which was the reason we were first requested to socially distance. If the hospitals are not ready, then it is incumbent upon you to clearly communicate their situation to your constituents. If they are ready for a surge in COVID19 patients, then your duty is to join Garry Bredefeld in pressuring the city and county to stop infringing on your constituents' natural rights.

Sincerely,
Kathryn Muratore, PhD
(UC Berkeley, Molecular and Cell Biology '06)

PS The timing of your shelter-at-home vote strikes a personal note for me. My husband, Justin (who, as you may recall, attended Bullard High with your brother), received his Articles of Incorporation for his new architecture firm on March 17th - the day before you voted to shut down the city.