

Billings City Administrator Weekly Report

May 13, 2021

- 1. Lifting the Mask Mandate** – This Monday May 17th, the mask mandate is being lifted from city facilities. After several months of consideration, we determined that citizens and employees have now had the opportunity to become fully vaccinated. The following statement will go out to our employees this week.

We appreciate your cooperation over the last year regarding mask mandates and social distancing. Yellowstone County statistics show that the majority of people who wanted to vaccinate have had the opportunity to do so. Therefore, the city has made a decision to lift the mask mandate for the public and city employees effective Monday, May 17th in all city facilities, with the exception of Federally mandated mask orders for the Airport and MET Transit Department.

Even though the mask mandate has been discontinued, we encourage you to wear a mask when social distancing is not possible. Of course, you may continue to wear your mask if you so choose, and please be considerate of your coworkers who may be at a higher risk.

I would like to thank you again for your cooperation this past year and look forward to more “normalcy” in the future.

Thanks and stay safe!

- 2. Legislative Wrap Up Luncheon** – Tuesday I attended the Legislative Wrap Up Lunch at the Doubletree. Representatives Mercer and Kelker led the panel discussions.
- 3. First Interstate Bank Development** – Brian Bergler, Steve Corning, Seth Morgan, Sky Cook, Wyeth Friday, Monica Plecker, Nicole Cromwell, and I met to discuss a proposed branch development along 24th Street near Hobby Lobby.
- 4. Substance Abuse Connect** – Wednesday I met with Kristin Lundgren to discuss Substance Abuse Connect and more specifically the mobile crises response teams. We are working to have the team up and running this summer.
- 5. SCL Health (St. Vincent)** – I met with Mark Korth who is responsible for filling the soon to be vacant CEO vacancy. This is my second meeting with Mark, he also wanted to assure me of SCL's commitment to Billings and their upcoming very substantial investment in the hospital corridor.
- 6. School District 2** – Greg Upham and I met to discuss the Public Safety and SD2 high school levy timeline. SD2 has done a great job keeping our kids in school this entire school year.
- 7. Fire Chief Retirement** – Fire Chief Bill Rash will retire on June 24th (Congrats!!); in searching for a replacement, there will be a meet and greet lunch for the two finalist candidates, Mayor, Council and the Leadership Team. The team interviewed five semi-finalists earlier this week. Twenty-four people applied to become our new chief.

8. Street/Traffic Update - We have finished our “spring cleaning” in the Street/Traffic Division. Spring cleaning is basically getting every street in town swept. After winter, the roads have a lot of sand and other material on them. Due to the light winter, we had this year, we were able to do some sweeping during the winter, but we like to get as much material off the street as we can before the big spring storms wash it into our storm system. This year, we swept up almost 1,700 cubic yards of material during our spring cleaning!

Have a wonderful weekend!