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July 6th, 2020

Common Council & Mayor Tom Barrett,

We fully support Milwaukee legislation to mandate face coverings in public places. A requirement is needed to keep people in our community safe from Covid-19 and to allow businesses to attract customers and protect workers. It's recommended by health experts, and is the right thing to do.

We want to make sure that affordability for low-income residents is not a barrier to anyone helping stop the spread of the disease in the community and complying with the requirement. Covid has disproportionately taken its toll on Milwaukee's poor and communities of color. This is another area where we see racial and social- economic disparities that must be addressed.

To help everyone in the community "mask up," Rebel Converting will commit to donating materials to make up to 1 million disposable masks once a Milwaukee mandatory mask ordinance is approved. These masks will made available for free to low-income individuals in Milwaukee who cannot afford them. If desired, Rebel Converting would also be willing to donate 50,000 MaskUpMKE envelopes (each containing three facemasks and a 211 magnet) for law enforcement to hand out as needed if the City deemed it appropriate.

Through our many partners and social media campaign, MaskUpMKE, has already worked with hundreds of organizations using almost 3,000 volunteers to make and distribute close to 3 million masks to over 550 organizations. We are confident that with the leadership of the Common Council, Mayor Barrett's administration and our coalition, we can recruit the volunteers for making these additional disposable masks.

In addition, we recommend that the city work with other businesses and considering using public health funds to distribute reusable masks for free if needed and supply information on how to make face coverings at home, so that there will be no obstacles in Milwaukee to masking up.

We look forward to the City of Milwaukee passing a mandatory mask ordinance and helping to reduce any burden to low-income individuals in helping keep the community safe.

Mike Kryshak Owner