

Papers of Mayor James Rolph

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November 20, 1918.

To the  
Honorable Board of Supervisors  
of the City and County of San Francisco:

Gentlemen:

Enclosed please find copy of a proclamation I have issued, dated to-day, in which I have advised the people of San Francisco that, in accordance with advices received from the Board of Health that the influenza epidemic in San Francisco has ceased to exist, masks can be discarded after to-morrow, November 21st, noon.

This is forwarded to you for your records as the document revoking Ordinance No. 4710, approved and finally passed by your Honorable Board on October 31st, 1918.

Respectfully,

Mayer.

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SAN FRANCISCO, November 20, 1918.

TO THE PEOPLE OF SAN FRANCISCO:

At twelve o'clock noon on Thursday, November 21, 1918, the San Francisco public may doff its influenza masks, which, for nearly a month, have served as a protection against the recent epidemic.

By virtue of the power granted me, as Mayor, in Ordinance No. 4710 of the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco, finally passed and approved October 31, 1918, I hereby declare the said Ordinance null and void, the San Francisco Board of Public Health having advised me that the influenza epidemic in San Francisco has ceased to exist.

In issuing this proclamation, declaring at an end the necessity for wearing the gauze masks, I wish to thank the people of San Francisco for the willingness displayed by them, even before the use of masks became compulsory, to fulfill the wishes of the Board of Health.

I likewise wish to pay a well deserved tribute, in the name of all our citizens, to the Board of Public Health and its personnel; City Health Officer Dr. Wm. C. Hassler; Dr. Brederick, Superintendent and the personnel of the San Francisco Hospital; C.M. Wollenberg, Superintendent of the Relief Home and of the temporary convalescents' hospital of the Red Cross in the Civic Center, together with his assistants; J.C. Astredo, Chief Probation Officer, and his working force at the San Francisco Detention Home; John A. Britton, Chairman, his fellow directors and the San Francisco Chapter of the American Red Cross; ~~John A. Britton~~ Admiral Jayne of the U.S. Navy and his details of courteous and efficient Navy Officers and Men; the various other charitable, social, fraternal and religious organizations of the city and the thousands of municipal employees, in particular the public school teachers, and private citizens, both men and women, who gave so unselfishly and so bravely and devotedly of their services in a time of real need, and to the Press who aided, by generous space, to advise, assist and cooperate.

The manner in which the various elements of our civic life co-operated with each other in the crisis has elicited much favorable comment from other cities - and this is, to all of us, cause for gratification.

At noon Thursday the masks come off, with the blowing of whistles and the ringing of bells. Until the appointed moment, let me add, the "mask" ordinance remains in full force and effect.

Respectfully,

JAMES ROLPH, JR.,

MAYOR.

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