

Papers of Mayor James Rolph

Used with permission.

From the collections of the California Historical Society, San Francisco, CA

Documents can only be used for educational and research purposes. If used for commercial purposes, please contact the above institution.

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

January 31, 1919.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
CLERK'S OFFICE
ROOM 235 CITY HALL

16-10 File

Hon. James Rolph Jr.
City Hall

Dear Mayor:

I realize how busy you are, and hesitate to bother you, but I was hoping that the Board of Health would yesterday consent to the proclamation to be issued by you on the subject of masks.

This is the situation that now develops, to which I invite your earnest attention on behalf of your administration, myself and others.

In the last few days, due to the fact that the Influenza Epidemic seems to be passing out, and second to the non-enforcement of the Mask Ordinance by the Police Department, people have been very careless in the wearing of same. I am not complaining of this condition, except to indicate to you that it points out that a continuation of the Mask Ordinance regulations now will alienate from us that great mass of the people who supported our efforts to bring the thing back into life, and to accomplish results.

We now come to a condition whereby one half of the people are wearing the mask and one half are not, and probably losing the warm hearted support of many of those who were with us to the last ditch in our effort to stamp out the epidemic by wearing the mask. I apprehend that the Board of Health having set the further consideration over till Monday will probably act at that time, but this situation develops, that on Monday we will have a lot of people assembled in the Chambers of the Board of Supervisors, conscious of the fact that we have about ~~two~~ reached the time when you and the Board of Health will permit the abandonment of the masks, and they will raise a great hub-ub, and will when you act, as you probably will, by issuing a proclamation, insist that through their efforts and pressure the mask was abandoned.

It does not seem to be too much to ask the Board of Health to assemble prior to that time, or perhaps at once, and to, in assembling, recognize these things I have pointed out.

I have put this matter before you in a confidential manner so that you will have this thought before you, and I place myself at your disposition as to meeting or action at your convenience.

With best wishes and warmest personal regards

Very truly yours,

Andrew J. Gallagher
Supervisor

Dictated by A.J.C.

This is a copy from the original manuscript held in the California Historical Society Library, San Francisco. It may be used for reference only, and no permission is here given for duplication in whole or in part.