

Baumb, Nelly

From: Palo Alto Forward <palo.alto.fwd@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 1, 2020 2:48 PM
To: Council, City; Fine, Adrian; DuBois, Tom; Filseth, Eric (Internal); Kou, Lydia; Cormack, Alison; Tanaka, Greg; Kniss, Liz (internal)
Cc: Angie; Shikada, Ed
Subject: Summer Streets Program
Attachments: Summer Streets letter.pdf

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Dear Mayor Fine and Palo Alto City Council Members,

Thank you for making our business districts a priority during this pandemic by implementing the Summer Streets pilot. This program has made it possible for our small businesses and their employees to recuperate from financial losses related to COVID-19. The street closures have allowed for restaurants and retail to operate safely under new social distancing guidelines. In spite of initial concerns from some community members, we have seen office workers return as customers and businesses are starting to thrive. To quote an employee at CVS on University Avenue, "We're busy again! Workers stock up on items Monday through Wednesday but the rest of the week is basically normal."

City Council must re-evaluate this program by August 16th for University Avenue and September 7th for California Avenue. Many small businesses have recently made financial and operational adjustments to participate in Summer Streets. Please extend this program through the end of this year in order to ensure that those investments continue to preserve the vibrancy of our downtowns.

Thank you for focusing on helping Palo Alto move forward in this difficult time.

Sincerely,
Palo Alto Forward Board

PALO ALTO FORWARD

August 1st, 2020

To: Mayor Adrian Fine, and City Council Members

Dear Mayor Fine and Palo Alto City Council Members,

Thank you for making our business districts a priority during this pandemic by implementing the Summer Streets pilot. This program has made it possible for our small businesses and their employees to recuperate from financial losses related to COVID-19. The street closures have allowed for restaurants and retail to operate safely under new social distancing guidelines. In spite of initial concerns from some community members, we have seen office workers return as customers and businesses are starting to thrive. To quote an employee at CVS on University Avenue, "We're busy again! Workers stock up on items Monday through Wednesday but the rest of the week is basically normal."

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Thank you for focusing on helping Palo Alto move forward in this difficult time.

Sincerely,

Baumb, Nelly

From: Neilson Buchanan <cnsbuchanan@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 5, 2020 9:08 AM
To: Council, City
Cc: finance.committe@cityofpaloalto.org; Shikada, Ed; Nose, Kiely; Kamhi, Philip
Subject: Summer Streets and Adam Smith's brutal hand

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Popular opinion is running strongly for Summer Street effort to sustain downtown businesses. This is commendable triage effort but a bigger picture is not being presented.

- What about retail and restaurant businesses outside the two downtowns? Don't they deserve some advantage of city resources?
- When will Finance Committee frame the Summer Street investment of staff and subsidy support?
- Public expectation for traffic and parking is being hardened without any sense of a Coordinated Area Plan. This will create a deferred issue comparable to the grade crossings throughout Palo Alto.

Ready, fire, aim management works in the short-term but won't be productive in the long-run.

I appreciate the uncertainties throughout 2020 and there is no gain in being paralyzed in search of the perfect. However, broader economic issues and capital flow must be discussed and considered by the current Council soon or punt to the next council.

For example, below is a really big picture. Some of the macroeconomics are clear and will impact Summer Streets through September 2021.

Neilson Buchanan
155 Bryant Street
Palo Alto, CA 94301

650 329-0484
650 537-9611 cell
cnsbuchanan@yahoo.com

Wednesday, Aug 05

The Fed can only do so much to help th

Bank lending collapsed in the second quarter.

According to the [latest Senior Loan Officer Opinion Survey](#) — or SLOOS report — from the Federal Reserve by the most since the financial crisis.

Across all parts of the commercial lending business and all areas of consumer lending except housing, bank lending fell in the months covering the most acute phase of the pandemic crisis.

Only residential real estate, essentially the mortgage market, has seen increased demand, though standard increase in lending is consistent with the [strong housing market data](#) we've tracked through the summer.

“Overall, the results of the July SLOOS are consistent with a much more uncertain economic outlook as banks tighten lending standards,” said Lewis Alexander, chief U.S. economist at Nomura.

“The results suggest stronger headwinds for business investment, although the resilience of [residential real estate] lending across consumers.”

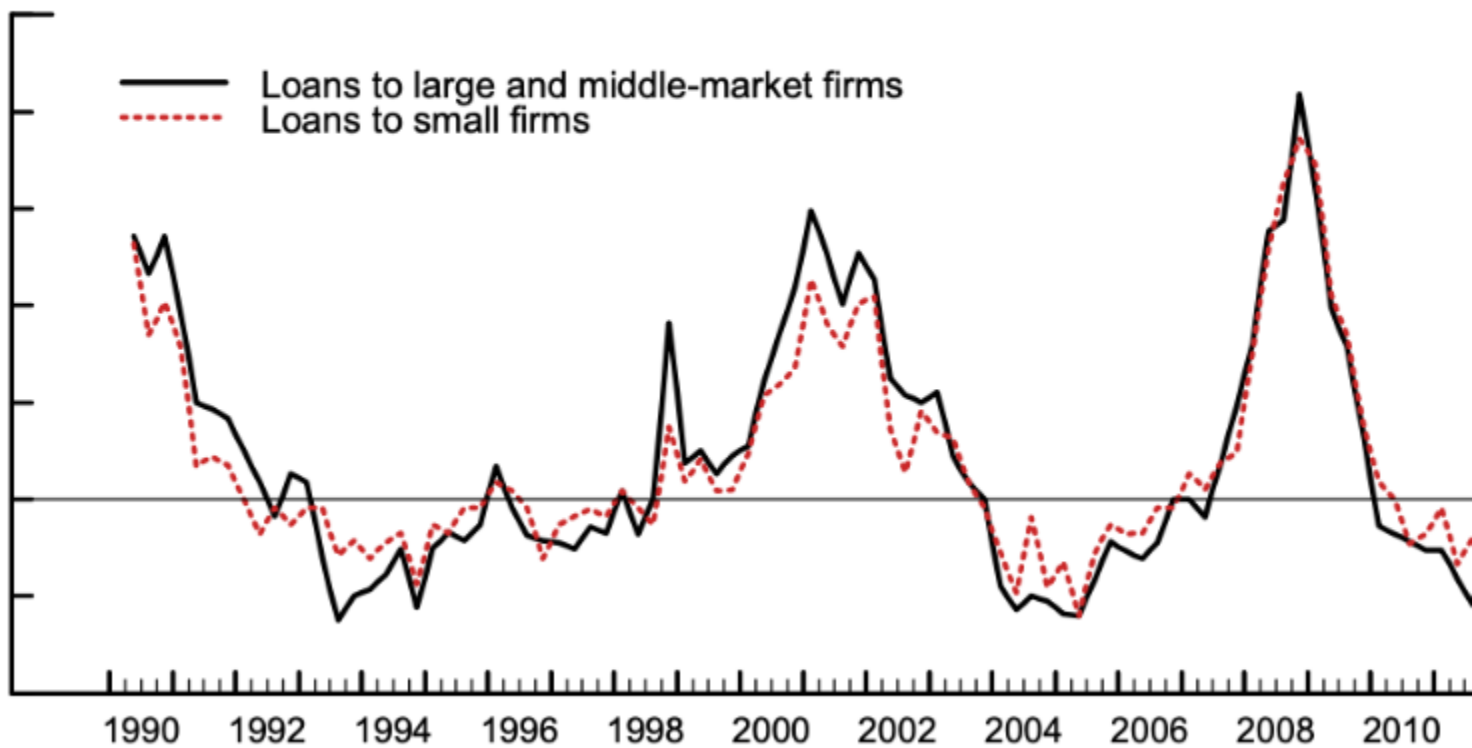
And the pullback in the commercial side showed worries about the business sector come from all directions.

“Major net shares of banks that reported reasons for tightening lending standards or terms cited a less favorable economic outlook, industry-specific problems, and reduced tolerance for risk as important reasons for doing so,” the SLOOS report said.

“Significant net shares of banks also mentioned deterioration in the bank’s current or expected capital position; increased concerns about nonbank lenders; decreased liquidity in the secondary market for C&I loans; and increased concerns about changes in accounting standards.”

In short, just about any macro, industry-specific, or regulatory concern that banks address when extending credit. And while banks tend to ease standards quickly when recessions end, the second quarter shows a sharp drop in lending, though many economists see the second quarter as the trough of the current drop in activity.

Net Percent of Domestic Respondents Tightening Standards for Commercial



And this report also reminds investors that while Fed policy may help heal financial markets to some degree, monetary policy. Consumers did get a boost from extra unemployment benefits and one-time stimulus payments, but homeowners refinancing mortgages are still not seeing a huge impact from what's happening at the Fed.

“The pandemic is a fiscal policy problem rather than a central bank policy problem,” said UBS strategist Paul

“Lockdowns meant government policy took away peoples' incomes. Fiscal policy needed to replace those incomes. The survey emphasized the limits on what central bank policy can do – credit conditions tightened, signaling the economy.”

Cash transfers can keep consumers spending and meeting some (but not all) of their obligations. This at least

But bank lending — and the curtailment of this credit extension — is where we see signs of just how sharply

have hunkered down, how fast borrowers dried up, and how long the road ahead is to get the economy back

By [Myles Udland](#), reporter and co-anchor of [The Final Round](#). Follow him at [@MylesUdland](#)

Baumb, Nelly

From: rohit sharma <rohit.sharma.mail@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 9, 2020 9:10 PM
To: Council, City
Cc: Tanaka, Greg
Subject: I strongly support Summer Streets to Dec 31, 2020

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Dear Members of Palo Alto City Council:

My family and I strongly support keeping University Avenue closed to vehicular traffic from High St to Cowper St. through the end of the year.

In this challenging year, Palo Alto's Open streets (Univ Ave, Calif Ave) have been a singular beacon of civil culture and with nearly everyone still working from home or sheltering in place, this is a vital and safe relaxation option.

I also support renaming it to PALO ALTO OPEN STREETS and putting up signage around the area to direct pedestrian, bike, and other traffic.

I hope you will continue to put up more signs for Public Health reminding everyone to wear a mask while they enjoy our open streets.

Rohit Sharma (Resident and Home Owner since 2001)
Cowper St, Palo Alto CA 94301

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/iOS

Baumb, Nelly

From: Fine, Adrian
Sent: Sunday, August 9, 2020 5:52 PM
To: Richard Mamelok
Cc: Shikada, Ed; Council, City; Cormack, Alison; DuBois, Tom; Filseth, Eric (Internal); Kniss, Liz (internal); Kou, Lydia; Tanaka, Greg
Subject: Re: Summer streets

Thank you both very much; really appreciate these suggestions

Adrian

On Aug 9, 2020, at 16:44, Richard Mamelok <mamelok@pacbell.net> wrote:

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

We support a continuation of the concept of summer streets. In addition we support

fund picnic tables to encourage takeout
-provide directional signage to promote surrounding businesses
-get the word out to our neighboring communities, more advertising, ---rename
“Summer Streets” to “Open Streets”
-redirect traffic to make Lytton and Hamilton one-way streets

Richard D. Mamelok and Midori Aogaichi
364 Churchill Avenue
Palo Alto, CA
94301

Mobile: ++1 650 924 0347

Sent from my iPhone. Please excuse embarrassing autocorrects

Baumb, Nelly

From: Richard Mamelok <mamelok@pacbell.net>
Sent: Sunday, August 9, 2020 4:44 PM
To: Shikada, Ed; Council, City; Cormack, Alison; DuBois, Tom; Filseth, Eric (Internal); Fine, Adrian; Kniss, Liz (internal); Kou, Lydia; Tanaka, Greg
Subject: Summer streets

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Richard D. Mamelok and Midori Aogaichi
364 Churchill Avenue
Palo Alto, CA
94301

Mobile: ++1 650 924 0347

Sent from my iPhone. Please excuse embarrassing autocorrects

Baumb, Nelly

From: Allen Akin <akin@arden.org>
Sent: Sunday, August 9, 2020 4:29 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: August 10, 2020 Item 6 (Summer Streets)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

As you read in the Staff Report, closing University Ave brought traffic volume on Lytton roughly to its pre-pandemic level, and traffic volume on High and Hamilton above their pre-pandemic levels.

Here in Professorville, the first week of Summer Streets generated a 12% increase over the post-pandemic baseline, to 55% of the pre-pandemic level. On subsequent weeks traffic dropped and then flattened out. This past week we were at a 4% increase since the closure, about 51% of pre-pandemic level, and relatively stable over the last four weeks.

The only concern I'd like to raise is that spillover traffic appears to be extremely sensitive to variations in demand. As you consider action on Summer Streets, please resist permanent changes whose side-effects can't be mitigated. When the economy improves, increases in traffic seem likely to make spillover rise dramatically.

Best regards,
Allen Akin

Baumb, Nelly

From: michael demarzo <mpdemarzo@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 5, 2020 3:21 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Summer Streets

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

I am a Palo Alto resident who supports the street closures of University and California Ave. Turning these into pedestrian boulevards creates a more inviting environment. Street closures should definitely be extended to the end of the year to support our local businesses during Covid, and should be considered as a permanent feature of our two main commercial corridors.

Unfortunately, the closures have had the unintended consequence of putting restaurants on the side streets at a disadvantage. I am thinking particularly of Pro Bono on Birch off of Cal. Ave. Akif and the team at Pro Bono have been fixtures of our community for two decades and invested in expansion. My kids grew up in that restaurant and their children have attended Palo Alto schools with mine. But Pro Bono doesn't have adequate or nice enough outdoor space to compete now that Cal Ave is closed to traffic. Pro Bono is disadvantaged enough being across the street from the massive construction project of the new garage --now it feels like the city really has it in for them.

The solution: Close one lane of traffic traffic at Birch from the left-hand-turn lane by the new garage to Cal Ave, so Pro Bono can take over the street. The only other business open around there is the Nuthouse across the street and they have their own parking lot - so are doing fine and this won't affect them.

Please consider keeping University and Cal Ave closed to traffic, and helping out Pro Bono on Birch. If you will go take a look you can see how easily Pro Bono's plight could be remedied.

Sincerely,

Michael DeMarzo

Baumb, Nelly

From: Linda Forrester <lforrester@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2020 12:45 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Support for summer streets program and more

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

I am writing as a resident of the Professorville neighborhood of Palo Alto to voice my support of the summer streets program. I think that there is already plenty of parking in the under-utilized parking garages and I believe more people should consider walking or biking to enjoy the downtown Palo Alto restaurants. More pedestrians would make the area safer and cleaner (less cars driving too fast and blowing through stop signs - VERY frequent here). I also want to support the restaurants building parklets on Emerson, Ramona and Bryant. Most of the restaurants I go to are on Emerson, less commercial and better quality food - so I really, really want to encourage letting them set-up more outdoor dining and set-up in a way that this can continue into the rainy season that will be upon us before we know it. COVID-19 has shown it is not going away anytime soon, so let's support our restaurants and other businesses by continuing the Summer Streets program and expanding it to Emerson, Ramona (which just did happen) and Bryant streets on a permanent basis.

Sincerely,
Linda Forrester
370 Addison Ave.,
Palo Alto, CA 94301
858-342-4704

Baumb, Nelly

From: Arnout Boelens <a.m.p.boelens@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2020 12:10 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Summer Streets

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Dear members of the city council,

I am writing to thank you for setting up the summer streets program and to let you know I am hoping that the program will be extended and made permanent.

We have been going on bike rides during the pandemic to get our exercise in, and since Summer Streets has started we have been frequenting California Avenue and University Avenue on an almost daily basis. It has been great to see people enjoying the outdoor seating, and local restaurants and stores staying in business during these difficult times.

Kind regards,

Nicole, Arnout, and Ava Zoeller Boelens

Baumb, Nelly

From: susan chamberlain <suschamberlain@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2020 11:37 AM
To: Council, City
Subject: YES to extending "Summer Streets"

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.



Dear City Council Members and Mayor,

I'm writing on behalf of 350 SV Palo Alto today to encourage you to support (and even expand) on the University Summer Streets program. We've read the Staff Report and fully support its contents. We are pleased that California Ave has been such a resounding success and we'd like to see a robust effort on University Ave as well.

University Ave presents a terrific opportunity to do four things:

1. become pedestrian friendly (which reduces our carbon footprint and offers a wonderful way to engage with our community at a distance)
2. provide much needed jobs for low income worker
3. helps business owners who otherwise would not have the visibility and space to operate
4. provides sales revenue to the City.

The tech workers these businesses relied on will not be coming back in the near future (or at a substantially reduced number) so we implore the Council to ensure that University Ave gets some much needed attention with

- better signage for the side street operations,
- picnic tables and
- better marketing to draw more people to the area.

The community has spoken and they're wildly in favor of the Summer Streets program, it seems there are just a few landlords who have antiquated ideas about how the downtown area could be revitalized. Making the automobile the focus of our future is not in line with our stated goals of carbon reduction and community building.

Thanks for your hard work over these past few months - it's not been an easy time for anyone and we appreciate your service.

Sincerely,

Susan Chamberlain, Hilary Glann, Debbie Mytels, Sandra Slater

Steering committee, 350SV Palo Alto Climate Team

Baumb, Nelly

From: Steve Pierce <pierce@zanemac.com>
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2020 9:44 AM
To: Council, City
Subject: Summer Streets

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Dear Mayor and Members of the Council,

I am a decades long downtown north resident and am fully supportive of the extension of the Summer Streets program to Dec 31, 2020.

I am hoping that this program will become permanent. The downtown experience is greatly enhanced by giving the streets to pedestrians and not cars and parking.

Steve



STEVE PIERCE

Real Estate Advisor & Broker

ZANE MACGREGOR

Real Estate Advisors & Brokers 621 High Street Palo Alto CA 94301

cell 650 533 7006 main 650 324 9900 fax 650 323 5431 zanemac.com

Baumb, Nelly

From: Eddie Gornish <gornish@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 7, 2020 10:34 AM
To: Council, City
Subject: Re: Palo Alto needs to be stricter about face coverings

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

I was glad to see a mention of wearing face covering in the daily Coronavirus Report on Tuesday.

I noticed:

- Wednesday, campers at El Carmelo elementary school day camp were wearing face masks. Earlier this summer, the counselor told me that the campers did not have to wear masks. While that is true, the governor's orders at the time were that masks should be "encouraged", they were not mandatory. Clearly the camp did not care about "encouraging"
- Wednesday, a group of PA Utility workers were wearing masks, yet the 3 workers taking a lunch break (ok not to wear a mask) were sitting well within 6 ft. of each other. The rules are really not that hard...
- This morning workers were managing the vegetation in the median on Charleston between Nelson and Carlson. Again, no masks. I called this one into the police. I'm sure they won't do anything about it.
- Thursday, there was a 3-man utility crew on Loma Verde near Greer. The youngest worker was wearing a mask. The 2 older workers were not. The oldest worker laughed at me when I asked them to put on a mask. When I talked to the police officer, he mentioned concerns about racism and not wanting to make it look like certain races were being singled out. I would like to point out that the youngest worker in this crew was Latino and the oldest, the one who laughed, was white. I wonder if the younger Latino worker feels empowered to tell his senior white co-worker to put on a mask? So not only has the police become too its job, out of fears of being called racist, this whole process ends up backfiring when they end up not protecting the minorities they want to protect in the first place.

So there is some improvement, but people who don't want to wear masks are not at all concerned about the law, happily flaunt it, while the police still treat it as a minor health issue and won't do anything about it.

thanks
Eddie Gornish

On Tue, Aug 4, 2020 at 10:03 PM Eddie Gornish <gornish@gmail.com> wrote:

Today, I saw another utility crew at Colorado and South Court without masks. When I asked them to please put on masks they did.

I'm not sure sure if this was a Palo Alto Utilities crew - it was not clear from their truck.

These are not isolated issues - they are daily.

I was pleased to see that The Coranavirus Report had a section on face coverings. Still, without empowering the police to enforce the law, it will be ignored.

thanks
Eddie Gornish

On Mon, Aug 3, 2020 at 8:54 PM Eddie Gornish <gornish@gmail.com> wrote:

Two of you have contacted me since I sent this email.

Today:

- Around 11:20AM, I saw 2 Palo Alto Utility workers talking to each other, without masks, at the corner of Loma Verde and Lewis. I told them they needed to wear masks. They didn't say anything and walked back to their truck. I couldn't see if they put masks on.

- At 12:15PM, I saw 2 contractors (wearing orange vests) at 3597 South Court. They were not wearing masks. I told them that they needed to wear masks. They just stared back at me. I told them they were violating a city and state ordinance. They said, sarcastically, thanks for the information. I told them I was calling it into the police. They said go ahead. So I did. A police officer called me more than 2 hours later after the contractors had left.

Again, Palo Alto's law is a joke. It's not being enforced. It's considered such a minor offense, that even when it's called in, the police usually don't respond - and if they do it's too late.

I read articles today about how face mask fines are being issued in Florida and Houston.

So when are we going to take this seriously? Once we reach the death levels of Florida and Houston?

thanks

Eddie Gornish

On Thu, Jul 30, 2020 at 8:05 PM Eddie Gornish <gornish@gmail.com> wrote:

Every day I go for a 1 hour bike ride around 11AM.

And at least 3 days a week, I spot a face mask violation:

- City of Palo Alto Utility workers doing road work (Colorado, Loma Verde, Meadow)
- 4 young male teens who out at the 7/11 on Colorado near Middlefield
- A soccer camp in Greer park (I know that campers aren't required to wear masks, but counselors are supposed to encourage safety (according to the state guidelines), and these kids are sitting right next to each other with no masks.

Also, every time I go to California or University Ave. (where the streets are blocked off) to take out food from a restaurant, I see a violation - often bikers (yes, I understand that people eating don't need to wear masks).

At times I've asked these people to put on masks. Sometimes they listen to me, sometimes they ignore me.

So I've started calling the police when I see a violation. After about 5-10 calls, and in particular, after seeing the same utility crew at Loma Verde and Maddux without masks several times in 2 weeks, I called the police again and asked what happens when someone calls in a mask violation?

An officer called me back and said that they will only send someone out if there are no other more important emergencies and that they will try to educate about mask wearing. I asked after how many times do you stop education and issue a citation? The officer said that as far as he knows, the Palo Alto Police have **never** issued a safety citation since the pandemic started. He offered many reasons why, including recent heightened concern about police actions in light of racial protests.

So basically, we have a law that is not enforced. And people who do not want to wear a mask, know that there are no consequences. The case count keeps going up in California and Santa Clara County (I have no idea how many cases there are in Palo Alto, but some of the violators that I see probably do not live in Palo Alto).

I empathize with the recent protests. I don't want to see a homeless person arrested. I don't think that protestors should be arrested (though they should be forced to wear masks).

But frankly, mask wearing is critically important.

You need to empower the police to enforce this law.

You need to make sure that people know that law will be enforced equally, without any racial/gender/age bias.

Then give the law some "teeth".

Basically, someone who doesn't want to wear a mask knows there are no consequences.

I'd like to compare this to smoking. I rarely see someone violating a smoking ordinance in Palo Alto. And I'm old enough to remember smoking on airplanes. But people learned. And if 2 people are smoking together in a park, they're only hurting themselves. But if 2 people are together in a park without masks, they're potentially hurting everyone.

Thank You

Eddie Gornish