



AGENDA

St. Clair County Board of Commissioners Human Services Committee

**Board of Commissioners' Room
County Administrative Office Building, 2nd Floor
200 Grand River Avenue
Port Huron, MI 48060**

October 7, 2021 at 6:00 PM

-
- 1. Roll Call/Opening/Pledge of Allegiance**
 - 2. Additions/Deletions/Changes to the Agenda**
 - A. Addition: Proclamation Recognizing Knights of Columbus Msgr. Kromenaker Council #2251 100th Anniversary
 - 3. Citizens to be Heard**
 - 4. Updates**
 - A. Public Health Order - Corporation Counsel Update
 - 5. Conceptual Initiatives**
 - 6. Old Business**
 - 7. New Business**
 - 8. Other Human Services Matters**
 - 9. Information Only**
 - A. SCC Health Department Points of Interest
 - B. Citizen Comments to Administrator/Controller - Public Health Order
 - 10. Receive and File Packets**
 - 11. Adjournment**

Committee Chair: Lisa Beedon

Note: The County complies with the "Americans with Disabilities Act" and if auxiliary aids or services are required at the meeting for individuals with disabilities, please contact Administrator/Controller's Office, Suite 203, 200 Grand River Avenue, Port Huron, MI 48060, (810) 989-6900 three days prior to said meeting.

Addition: Proclamation Recognizing Knights of Columbus Msgr. Kromenaker Council #2251 100th Anniversary

Summary:

ATTACHMENTS:

	Description	Upload Date	Type
📎	Proclamation Recognizing Knights of Columbus Msgr. Kromenaker Council #2251 100th Anniversary	10/7/2021	Cover Memo

**PROCLAMATION
RECOGNIZING KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
MSGR. KROMENAKER COUNCIL #2251
100th ANNIVERSARY**

WHEREAS, as St. Clair County celebrates 200 years of being established as a county, one local organization is celebrating its 100th year of service and work in the community; and

WHEREAS, April 3, 2021 marked the 100th Anniversary of the Knights of Columbus Msgr. Kromenaker Council #2251 of St. Clair, Michigan; and

WHEREAS, on Saturday, October 9, 2021 the Msgr. Kromenaker Knights of Columbus Council will hold a celebration at their hall in St. Clair to celebrate this milestone of 100 years of service to the community; and

WHEREAS, in 1882, thanks to the efforts of Father Michael J. McGivney, assistant pastor of St. Mary's Church in New Haven, Connecticut and some of his parishioners, the Connecticut state legislature on March 29, 1882, officially chartered the Knights of Columbus as a fraternal benefit society; and

WHEREAS, the Knights was formed to render financial aid to members and their families. Mutual aid and assistance are offered to sick, disabled and needy members and their families. Social and intellectual fellowship is promoted among members and their families through educational, charitable, religious, social welfare, war relief and public relief works.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the St. Clair County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of its citizens, does hereby adopt this proclamation honoring the Knights of Columbus Msgr. Kromenaker Council #2251 of St. Clair on their 100th Anniversary.

PROCLAIMED THIS 7th DAY OF OCTOBER, 2021

Jeffrey L. Bohm, Chairperson

Jorja Baldwin, Vice-Chairperson

Greg McConnell, Commissioner

Lisa M. Beedon, Commissioner

Duke Dunn, Commissioner

Dave Rushing, Commissioner

Dave Vandenbossche, Commissioner

Public Health Order - Corporation Counsel Update

Summary:

SCC Health Department Points of Interest

Summary:

ATTACHMENTS:

Description	Upload Date	Type
📎 SCC Health Department Points of Interest	9/30/2021	Cover Memo

SEPTEMBER 2021***Points of Interest...***

- Since September 1, there has been 316 confirmed or probable St. Clair County cases of COVID in individuals 18 and younger and cases continue to rise county-wide. Dr. Mercatante communicates regularly with public school superintendents and private/parochial school administrators.
- The Environmental Health Division completed the summer of water quality monitoring at eight public beaches on Lake Huron and the St. Clair River with a grant from EGLE. Fifteen weeks of sampling resulted in a total of five days of closures at three beaches, making it one of our healthiest beach seasons on record. Improved water quality has been made possible by reducing pathogen sources through sewer separation projects, elimination of illicit discharges, and installation of green infrastructure. All sampling data was entered daily into Michigan Beach Guard, a website provided by EGLE, showing real-time information on sampling results and beach closures. St. Clair County samples submitted during the summer will be analyzed over the winter to link the bacteria to human or animal sources.
- The St. Clair County Health Department (SCCHD) offered a back-to-school vaccination catch-up and waiver opportunity on September 11. Nursing staff administered 59 total vaccines to 19 children/adolescents. 17 vaccine waivers were also signed.
- SCCHD leadership, general staff and key partner agencies are in the process of receiving and completing the health department COVID-19 Response Assessment. The intent is to use the data to formulate the SCCHD After-Action Plan and Improvement Report (AAR-IP). This activity supports Medical Countermeasures Operational Readiness Review (MCM ORR), and meets one of the CDC Cooperative Agreement requirement for State and Local Health Departments. This report is due year-end, but may be extended due to ongoing disease activity and related challenges.
- Appointments for flu vaccinations are now available at the Health Department (ages 6 months and older) and Teen Health location (ages 10-21). While supplies last availability includes; FluMist (no needle) for ages 2-49; enhanced for ages 65 and up; and standard flu vaccine for all ages. Call (810) 987-5300 to schedule. Other locations for flu vaccine includes local pharmacies and health care provider offices.

Citizen Comments to Administrator/Controller - Public Health Order

Summary:

ATTACHMENTS:

	Description	Upload Date	Type
📎	Citizen Comments to Administrator/Controller - Public Health Order	10/1/2021	Cover Memo
📎	Citizen Letters	10/7/2021	Cover Memo

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 24, 2021 11:45 AM
To: Posey, Jennifer
Subject: Web Contact to Administrator/Controller

I'm writing to make known my support of Dr Annette Mercatante and the St Clair County Health Department in their ongoing efforts to keep our county safe and healthy. The Commissioners should leave the public health and medical decisions to medical professionals and find a better use of their time, such as encouraging vaccination of all eligible individuals so that St. Clair County can get back to normal in a safe and healthy manner.

I'm disgusted any commissioner is wasting time arguing with public health orders and medical advice, the history of pandemic response shows us that never works out well!

Sherry Mercurio

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 23, 2021 4:08 PM
To: Posey, Jennifer
Subject: Web Contact to Administrator/Controller

I support Dr. Mercantante, a fully trained medical official, to make determinations about our community's health. I do not trust elected county commissioners with no medical expertise. Elected officials are concerned about re-election, not our overall health. Please share with our commissioners that they should not keep attempting to interfere with the Health Department.

Colleen Forsgren
Marysville, Michigan

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 23, 2021 11:06 AM
To: Posey, Jennifer
Subject: Web Contact to Administrator/Controller

As a St. Clair County taxpayer and someone who has been deeply affected by COVID, I am asking you to rescind your decision to remove Dr. Mercatante from her position. This makes no sense and the residents of St. Clair County need our leadership to follow the science and do what is right for all.

Sincerely,
Margaret Teltow

From: Johnson, Jerry <johnjer@msu.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, September 22, 2021 7:28 PM
To: Bohm, Jeff; Dave Vandebossche; Dunn, Duke; Baldwin, Jorja; Lisa Beedon; McConnell, Greg; Rushing, David
Cc: Posey, Jennifer; Hepting, Karry; Kevin Watkins; Jerry Johnson(MSUE)
Subject: FOIA: Letter of Support - Dr. Annette Mercatante
Attachments: Letter of Support - Dr. Mercatante - 21-Sep-2021.docx

EMAIL ORIGIN EXTERNAL: Use proper judgment and caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding to this email.

Dear St. Clair County Board of Commissioners,

Attached, please find a letter of support for Dr. Annette Mercatante from #SCCBetterTogether. As you know, we are not a political organization and this is not intended as a political or divisive document. That being said, Dr. Mercatante has been a walking example of living out the mission we established and has been instrumental in working with us in our goal to build lasting friendships and genuine collaboration across our county for the betterment of our residents.

Thanks for all you do for our county.

Sincerely,

Kevin Watkins & Jerry Johnson

Jerry Johnson

District 10 Director – *serving the counties of Huron, Lapeer, St. Clair, Sanilac and Tuscola*

Michigan State University Extension

200 Grand River Avenue, Suite 102

Port Huron, MI 48060

Direct: (810) 989-6308

johnjer@msu.edu

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#SCCBetterTogether

September 21, 2021

Board of Commissioners
200 Grand River Ave.
Port Huron MI 48060

Dear Board of Commissioners,

We, the members of The Diversity Initiative of St. Clair County (*#SCCBetterTogether*), write this letter in support of Dr. Annette Mercatante.

#SCCBetterTogether was borne out of a need to better connect our members and our respective communities by building lasting friendships and trust in order to increase collaboration and cohesiveness within St. Clair County. Our mission is to enhance diversity and inclusion in a transformational way in all aspects of work, school and life in St. Clair County.

Dr. Mercatante, also a member of our organization, was among the first to tap into the resources provided by our richly diverse membership. She realized that access to healthcare could be increased by breaking down barriers of distrust and misinformation. Out of this vision we collaborated to organize vaccine clinics on the South Side of Port Huron. The Health Department worked hand in hand with *#SCCBetterTogether* to make direct phone contact with the elderly, the economically disadvantaged, the home bound, those with no internet and people of color. Dr. Mercatante wrote the grant which funded this initiative and we enthusiastically drafted the letter of support. This was a powerful, unifying endeavor for our community.

In the face of all that COVID-19 has thrown at residents of our county, Dr. Mercatante has been a model of dedication, leadership, collaboration and perseverance. Members of *#SCCBetterTogether* stand firmly in support of Dr. Mercatante in her role as Medical Health Officer for St. Clair County.

Sincerely,

Kevin Watkins, Co-Chair
#SCCBetterTogether
NAACP President

Jerry Johnson, Co-Chair
#SCCBetterTogether
District 10 Director, MSU Extension

Additional Members in support of this letter

Alphonso Amos
Audrey Sochor
Deborah Walbecq
Debra Johnson
Debra McNair
Demetrius Starling
Di'Mond Davis
Elizabeth Mathews
Jaime Reinke
Jason Stier
Jazmyn Thomas
Jim Frank
Julie Sobkowski
Kanchan Wankhede
Kathy Hayman
Kevin M. Totty Sr.
Kimberly Brown
Marion Stewart
Mary Williams
Nicole Reyna-Green
Randall S. Fernandez
Regina Spain
Shawn Shackelford
Shawn Wightman
Stella Daniels
Sushma Reddy
Teresa Jex
Terry Kuhns
Tyrone Burrell
Wayne Pyden

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, September 22, 2021 11:28 AM
To: Posey, Jennifer
Subject: Web Contact to Administrator/Controller

I would like to register my deep and abiding support for the work of Dr. Annette Mercantante!

Along with her hard working staff she has helped St. Clair County very competently navigate the pandemic via her thoughtful leadership and sound judgement.

I strongly oppose misguided actions or words by elected officials that distract from the important work of ending the pandemic.

County Commissioners owe Dr. Annette their gratitude... some also owe her an apology.

Jerry Celmer
31st Circuit Court Administrator (ret.)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, September 22, 2021 11:07 AM
To: Posey, Jennifer
Subject: Web Contact to Administrator/Controller

I fully support Dr. Mercatante in her attempts to follow the science and common sense measures to protect our community. The only people that need to be removed are those board members that are putting their politics ahead of the greater good.

Rich Elsner
Port Huron

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 2:44 PM
To: Posey, Jennifer
Subject: FOIA: Re: Web Contact to Administrator/Controller

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Thank you!

Suzanne

On Tue, Sep 21, 2021, 9:30 AM Posey, Jennifer <JPosey@stclaircounty.org> wrote:
Thank you for your comments. I will ensure that your message is provided to the BOC.

Jennifer Posey
Administrative Services Manager
Senior Citizens Millage Administrator
County of St. Clair, MI
200 Grand River Avenue, Suite 203
Port Huron, MI 48060
Direct #: 810-989-6343
Main #: 810-989-6900

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 10:35 PM
To: Posey, Jennifer <JPosey@stclaircounty.org>
Subject: Web Contact to Administrator/Controller

I support the effort of the St. Clair County Commissioners to rescind Dr. Mercatante's public health order concerning quarantine orders based on Covid contact.

According to a recent Stanford study, for people ages 0-59, there is better than a 99.7% survival rate for those who contract Covid. For ages 60-69, the survival rate drops to 99.4%. The odds of dying for this group are 1 in 168, about the same odds for surviving a car crash. But we all still drive cars, don't we? Why not focus on those who are truly vulnerable and let the rest of us go on with our lives?

My husband and I contracted Covid last March from our tax accountant, despite the fact that we wore masks, were seated six feet apart, used copious amounts of hand sanitizer and signed with our own pens. We got early treatment through America's Frontline Doctors. I was put on hydroxychloroquine and Zinc. My husband was put on Ivermectin and Zinc. Our illness started with the cough. My husband lost his sense of taste and we both had extreme fatigue and loss of appetite, but thanks to early treatment, neither of us developed the breathing issues that sickened so many, including our tax accountant, who was hospitalized for pneumonia.

Those who have recovered from Covid have a robust immunity relative to those who haven't had Covid and got the shot. Why is this information suppressed?

It was encouraging to learn that our County Commissioners may be doing research on this and thinking for themselves.

Suzanne Doherty

Port Huron, MI

From: Christine Danner [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 2:23 PM
To: Posey, Jennifer
Subject: FOIA: Re: Web Contact to Administrator/Controller

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Christine Danner
Port Huron Township

Thanks!

On Tuesday, September 21, 2021, 02:16:15 PM EDT, Posey, Jennifer wrote:

Thank you very much for contacting us. I will be sure to provide a copy to the Board of Commissioners. If you can put your name and/or municipality of residence, it would be appreciated.

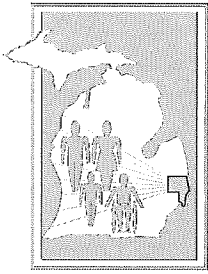
Thanks again,

Jennifer Posey
Administrative Services Manager
Senior Citizens Millage Administrator
County of St. Clair, MI
200 Grand River Avenue, Suite 203
Port Huron, MI 48060
Direct #: 810-989-6343
Main #: 810-989-6900

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 2:14 PM
To: Posey, Jennifer <JPosey@stclaircounty.org>
Subject: Web Contact to Administrator/Controller

Dr. Mercatante has my full support! She's taking the hard steps that are necessary for the citizens in our county to stay healthy & to prevent the spread of Covid & the development of new & possibly more virulent strains.



St. Clair County Community Mental Health Authority

Promoting Discovery & Recovery Opportunities for Healthy Minds & Bodies

Debra B. Johnson
Executive Director

Mohammad Saeed, MD
Medical Director

Nancy Thomson
Board Chairman

September 20, 2021

Board of Commissioners
200 Grand River Ave.
Port Huron MI 48060

Dear Board of Commissioners,

As executive director of St. Clair County Community Mental Health (CMH), and on behalf of our staff and the over 4,500 area residents we serve each year, I am writing in strong support of Dr. Annette Mercatante continuing to lead the St. Clair County Health Department.

Dr. Mercatante's experience, passion, and knowledge concerning the health care needs of county residents, particularly those most in need but with the least resources, is invaluable. Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, under Dr. Mercatante's leadership the county health department was a valued CMH partner providing integrated health care (physical and mental health) for county residents. Since COVID-19, we have worked collaboratively with her and the health department to provide vaccine clinics and accurate, timely information to the community. At all times, her decisions have been guided by the best science available and motivated by a desire to protect the health of everyone in St. Clair County. Her leadership has been particularly important in safeguarding the health of individuals served at CMH.

As of September 13, the vaccination rate for people with at least one dose in St. Clair County remained low by national standards, at only 53%, compared to 65% nationally. How to deal with this and the Delta Variant are questions that will inevitably elicit strong emotions and differences of opinion. However, neither justify a change in leadership at the health department, particularly when it would mean losing someone with Dr. Mercatante's knowledge, high ethical standards and impressive leadership.

In the interest of all county residents, but particularly for individuals we serve at CMH, it is my hope that the County Commission retain Dr. Mercatante as the St. Clair County Health Department's Medical Health Officer.

Sincerely,

Debra B. Johnson
Executive Director

cc. Dr. Annette Mercatante
St. Clair County Community Mental Health Board of Directors

From: Kathy Sheldon [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 9:34 AM
To: Posey, Jennifer
Subject: FOIA: Re: Web Contact to Administrator/Controller

EMAIL ORIGIN EXTERNAL: Use proper judgment and caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding to this email.

My apologies! I'm Kathy Sheldon from Marysville.

On Sep 21, 2021, at 9:27 AM, Posey, Jennifer <JPosey@stclaircounty.org> wrote:

Thank you very much for contacting us. I will ensure that the BOC receives a copy of your comments. If you are able to provide your name and/or municipality in which you reside, it would be appreciated.

Thanks.

Jennifer Posey
Administrative Services Manager
Senior Citizens Millage Administrator
County of St. Clair, MI
200 Grand River Avenue, Suite 203
Port Huron, MI 48060
Direct #: 810-989-6343
Main #: 810-989-6900

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 7:55 AM
To: Posey, Jennifer <JPosey@stclaircounty.org>
Subject: Web Contact to Administrator/Controller

I stand with Dr. Mercatante! By quaurantining those individuals that have chosen not to vaccinate, you are helping those that have. I also believe the majority of those vaccinated would have no problem with quarantine under those circumstances as well, voluntarily! It's time for mandates to stop this virus, at least slow it down to protect our children, grand children and seniors.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 7:49 AM
To: Posey, Jennifer
Subject: Web Contact to Administrator/Controller

Please pass my thoughts along to the commissioners.

I am frankly appalled that there is talk of removing Dr. Mercante. Of all the people in this county issuing health orders, you guys feel is infringing on others' rights because of requiring quarantines. In what world is this so bad? She isn't even ordering masks for crying out loud! Yet you think this one order is so terrible. Rest assured I will not be voting for you all if you continue down this path. I am a tried and true conservative and I thought only liberals were this petty. But you all have shown your true colors. I've never voted Democrat, but I will if you continue this ridiculous childish behavior. Do something productive.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 5:47 AM
To: Posey, Jennifer
Subject: Web Contact to Administrator/Controller

The recent news that I read regarding the upcoming attempt to remove Anne Mercantante from her position is infuriating. I do not care how many complaints from citizens you have received- complaints do not constitute changes in policies that protect my health and the health of my family, friends, and colleagues. The idea that a county commissioner is the mastermind of this ignorant idea comes as no surprise. My suggestion to you, sir, is to focus on things you should be focused on, and those are things that do pertain to my health and safety. How many family members and friends have you lost? I have lost SEVERAL..... young and old, sick and healthy. One of my cousins has lost both legs to this horrific illness.

Are all of you to be named in law suit or is it going to be just one of you? Focus on what you should focus on and leave the scientific/medicinal decisions left to the professionals trained and educated in that area.

Cordially,

Andrea Frohm

Physician Practice Manager

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 6:31 PM
To: Posey, Jennifer
Subject: Web Contact to Administrator/Controller

An open letter to the St. Clair County Board of Commisioners:

When I read Saturday's article, stating our County Board of Commisioner's want to fire Dr. Mercatante, I was appalled. This pandemic has certainly created divisions within our community: those who believe this virus started within nature in the animal kingdom vs those who think China developed it as a viral weapon; those who believe in vaccines vs those who don't; those who believe in masks vs those who don't; and those who believe in the overwhelming devastation caused by Covid vs those who believe it's exaggerated by our government.

One thing I think we can all agree on though, is that Dr. Mercatante and her staff, have done everything they can to keep us as safe as possible, by following the scientific data, and established medical practices.

Doctors have for years, advised us to cover our coughs, wash our hands, social distance during viral outbreaks. When our kids got chicken pox, we were told to keep them at home to protect other children (hello- this is quarantine). What we are being advised to do is nothing new - it's just happening on a much larger scale than we are used to.

I think our County Board of Commisioner's need to remember, they are not physicians or public health officials. If they want to fire Dr. Mercatante for doing her job, are they planning on putting a politician into that position of public health director? I think the board members need to use common sense and think before they act. Perhaps it is the county board members that needs to be fired instead.

Cindy Closs

Resident of St. Clair County

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 6:14 PM
To: Posey, Jennifer
Subject: Web Contact to Administrator/Controller

The idea that we would fire or ask for someone's resignation that has done so much for our community and has worked tirelessly to keep us safe and healthy is absolutely appalling.

Where does this end?

When it's your kid that is out on a ventilator?

When your child dies?

This childless behavior needs to stop. You are elected by us to keep us safe as well as all the other things.
Do your job, stand up to the people that make false claims.

Be a leader!!

Sincerely yours
Sheila Volker
Marysville Michigan

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 5:10 PM
To: Posey, Jennifer
Subject: Web Contact to Administrator/Controller

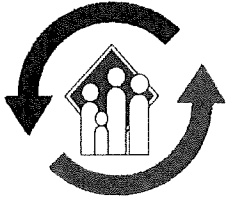
Dear county commissioners and administrative staff,

I am writing to express my support, as a St. Clair county resident, for Dr. Mercatante. Through a difficult time, Dr. Mercatante has proven herself as a highly qualified professional willing to do the right things while considering others that may not agree. She was hired to do a job and it is sad that some commissioners fall to ignorance and political pressure to prevent her from fulfilling her responsibilities. I implore the entire board of commissioners to properly support the medical professionals in our community, especially the leader of our health department.

Thank you,

Bryan Garrett

ST. CLAIR COUNTY
COMMUNITY SERVICES COORDINATING BODY
A Community Collaborative Body



*"...leading the way in the development of
services to meet the needs of the community."*

September 20, 2021

Board of Commissioners
200 Grand River Ave.
Port Huron MI 48060

Dear Board of Commissioners,

We the member agencies of the Community Services Coordinating Body of St. Clair County are writing in support of the St. Clair County Health Department under the leadership of Dr. Annette Mercatante.

For thirty-six years the Community Services Coordinating Body and its approximate 75 members has collaborated to make our community a better place for all. We are very fortunate in our community to have this level of collaboration and respect among all our community partners.

Through the pandemic our community has been blessed that Dr. Mercatante has worked tirelessly along with her staff to issue guidance based on fact and science to keep our residents safe. She has been very transparent with sharing information to help educate the community and has created partnerships with other agencies to help battle this health crisis. Her information is and always has been in line with CDC recommendations and her orders also fall in line with prioritizing the safety of the community, which is what she was appointed to do.

As this pandemic continues, now is not the time to abandon proven science and data that works and is being used in other counties as well. While it is easy to question some of the information being shared, Dr. Mercatante has always been available and willing to answer any and all questions.

The membership of The Community Services Coordinating Body strongly supports Dr. Annette Mercatante and feel it would be extremely unfortunate for the County Commission to make a change in leadership of the St. Clair County Health Department.

Sincerely,

Debra Johnson, Chair

Scott Crawford, Vice Chair

Additional Membership wishing to be listed in support on the next page:

St. Clair County Community Services Coordinating Body Membership Wishing to be listed separately demonstrating their support for Dr. Mercatante and the work of the Health Department:

Blue Water Center of Independent Living
Blue Water Community Action
Blue Water Developmental Housing
Blue Water Recovery Outreach Center
Blue Water Safe Horizons
Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan
Citizen Robert Furtado
Citizen Michael McCartan
City of Port Huron
Community First Health Centers
Community Foundation of St. Clair County
Goodwill Industries
Harbor Impact Ministries
Hunter House Hospitality
Mid-City Nutrition
NorServ Group,
Port Huron Odyssey House
Professional Counseling Center
Sanborn Gratiot Memorial Home
St. Clair County Child Abuse / Neglect Council
St. Clair County Library System
The Arc of St. Clair
The Harbor for Youth

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 4:26 PM
To: Posey, Jennifer
Subject: Web Contact to Administrator/Controller

I support Dr. Mercatante and our public health officials as they attempt to keep this virus controlled. We can't let rogue, uneducated politicians set our public health guidelines. The quarantine guidelines may not be perfect for everyone, but they were adopted according to the best science and data available. I will support mask mandates should they become necessary too, as masks have repeatedly been shown to be a cheap and effective way to reduce Covid transmission. If vaccines were to be mandated, I will support that too, as vaccines have been successful in reducing dangerous outbreaks for over a century and current US law allows for such mandates. We all have to do our part to make sure our county does not experience undue hardships from the pandemic, including the overwhelming of our hospitals as we see in other areas. Why even have a public health department if uneducated politicians have sufficient knowledge to guide us through a health crisis? Let the trained professionals do their job. The decisions of our health officials may not be popular, but they are more likely to be correct than the gut reactions of our county commissioners. Jill Parrott

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 4:07 PM
To: Citizens
Subject: Health dept.

EMAIL ORIGIN EXTERNAL: Use proper judgment and caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding to this email.

Shame on this board for your 5-2 vote against the supervisor of the health dept. to get rid of her, after all she has done..being in this county for 46 years; this is a sham and political;; we are keeping a tally for next election.. gary moore

Sent from rmy iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 1:02 PM
To: Posey, Jennifer
Subject: Web Contact to Administrator/Controller

I am writing in support of. Dr. Mercantante. Educated and qualified public health officials should be leading public health, not the general public or government officials who don't respect health experts. In fact, I think we should be under MORE health mandates at this time. I think it is absolutely ridiculous that my son goes to a school where nuts and sesame seeds are forbidden to protect a few students' lives, but masks are not mandated endangering EVERY student's life. Do not remove Dr. Mercantante.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 26, 2021 9:51 PM
To: Posey, Jennifer
Subject: Web Contact to Administrator/Controller

Hi Carrie,

I have reviewed the Saint Clair County Resolution to Promote General Welfare.

My comments are the following:

The title to promote general welfare is misleading; whose welfare –one group out of the whole? How does this secure liberty, and where is this protected in the constitution? It is my impression that this resolution is discounting the health department and that it does not want any regulations to protect the public health of the common good.

The St. Clair County Health Department is not asking/dictating to make medical decisions for St. Clair County citizens. Quarantines, contact tracing, and vaccines are part of the public health law; these practices are used to prevent, decrease, and stop the spread of disease. These are tools needed to achieve the goal. Is this resolution stating that the health department cannot fulfill its' responsibilities?

Parents have rights; however, when there is a public health crisis/pandemic, the public (including parents) have responsibilities to cooperate with the health department. HIPAA regulations are followed to ensure privacy.

Mandates such as vaccines, COVID testing, face masks for employees, contractors, employers have been set for larger corporations, and government agencies /companies that receive federal money; the county cannot supersede the federal government requirements.

St. Clair County citizens can learn about other reliable science based preventative measures and therapies: no one is stopping them.

Who wrote the resolution? What is the real agenda?

Who would enforce this resolution? Is it legally binding?

I am opposed to this resolution because there are public health laws in place to protect everyone. This resolution has nothing to do with public welfare.

Ruth A. Habalewsky R.S,

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, September 28, 2021 8:17 AM
To: Posey, Jennifer
Subject: Web Contact to Administrator/Controller

Greetings Commissioners. As a resident of St. Clair county, I want to express my support for the work of our Public Health Department and the Director, Dr. Mercatante. The responsibility of a public health official is to protect the public. It is my hope that our elected county officials will stand with our medical officers during this difficult time. Thank you. Timothy Morse

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 27, 2021 4:07 PM
To: Posey, Jennifer
Subject: Web Contact to Administrator/Controller

Dear County Commissioner,

Annette Mercatante, MD, Medical Director of our Public Health Department has my full support. The policies she and the Department embrace and issue are essential to our county, and indeed the nation, being able reduce the incidence of Covid-19. Vaccines are safe and effective. Masks, social distancing, handwashing have all been provided reliable means to reduce transmission.

Veronica Blake, smr (Sister)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 27, 2021 12:52 PM
To: Posey, Jennifer
Subject: Web Contact to Administrator/Controller

I am writing in support of Dr. Mercantante. I believe she is going the right thing for our well being.

I'm a resident of Saint Clair.
Thank you.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 27, 2021 11:03 AM
To: Posey, Jennifer
Subject: Web Contact to Administrator/Controller

If anti-maskers/anti-vaxxers choose to endanger the health, safety, and lives of others, they cross the boundary between their rights and the rights of others. They don't have the right to endanger other people. Retain Dr. Mercatante as a clear, sane voice against the irrational attack on good public policy.

From: Carolynn MIDDLETON <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 27, 2021 9:49 AM
To: Posey, Jennifer
Subject: Re: Web Contact to Administrator/Controller

EMAIL ORIGIN EXTERNAL: Use proper judgement and caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding to this email.

Carolynn M Middleton

[REDACTED]
Port Huron, MI 48060

Carolynn M. Middleton



Carolynn M. Middleton
Associate Broker at Coldwell Banker Professionals

Office 810-987-1424 | Cell 810-300-7621
middleton1001@msn.com | www.buybycarol.com
802 Lapeer Ave. Port Huron, MI 48060



From: Posey, Jennifer
Sent: Monday, September 27, 2021 9:15 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Web Contact to Administrator/Controller

Thank you very much for contacting us. I will ensure that your correspondence is provided to the Board of Commissioners for their October 7th meeting. If you are able to provide your name and/or municipality of residence, it would be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Posey
Administrative Services Manager
Senior Citizens Millage Administrator
County of St. Clair, MI
200 Grand River Avenue, Suite 203
Port Huron, MI 48060
Direct #: 810-989-6343
Main #: 810-989-6900

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, September 27, 2021 6:10 AM

To: Posey, Jennifer

Subject: Web Contact to Administrator/Controller

Public health is not a personal choice. It is the reason why public smoking has been banned.

It is the reason why you can't drink and drive and must wear a seatbelt. It is the reason why you can't can fruits and vegetables at home and sell them to the public because there are safety standards.

Common sense should dictate our mandates. At the bare minimum we know masks help just like sneezing into a tissue or your elbow helps reduce spread. Vaccines have been proven to work as illustrated by measles, mumps, polio and flu vaccines.

Now is the time for common sense to prevail.

From: John Reed [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 27, 2021 9:48 AM
To: Posey, Jennifer
Subject: Re: Web Contact to Administrator/Controller

EMAIL ORIGIN EXTERNAL: Use proper judgement and caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding to this email.

John M Reed
[REDACTED]

Fort Gratiot
[REDACTED]

On Sep 27, 2021, at 9:12 AM, Posey, Jennifer <JPosey@stclaircounty.org> wrote:

Thank you very much for contacting us. I will ensure that your message is provided to the Board of Commissioners for their Oct. 7th meeting. If you are able and willing to share your name and municipality where you reside, it would be appreciated.

Thank you,

Jennifer Posey
Administrative Services Manager
Senior Citizens Millage Administrator
County of St. Clair, MI
200 Grand River Avenue, Suite 203
Port Huron, MI 48060
Direct #: 810-989-6343
Main #: 810-989-6900

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 27, 2021 7:22 AM
To: Posey, Jennifer <JPosey@stclaircounty.org>
Subject: Web Contact to Administrator/Controller

I support Dr. Mercatante.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 27, 2021 8:45 AM
To: Posey, Jennifer
Subject: Web Contact to Administrator/Controller

Dear Administrator : I understand the County Commissioners are hoping to have our County Health Director, Dr. Mercantante relieved of her position, or pressure her to back down her stances on mask mandates and vaccines. I am a retired RN, who worked in health care for 44 years. I wore masks for hours on end at times, as our health care personnel do now. The claims by the anti maskers are ludicrous and false. Mask use does not harm people. My family and I have used masks as advised by experts ever since the COVID-19 pandemic started, we are all vaccinated. We try to do the right thing to protect not only ourselves, but others. The anti maskers claim it is their right not to wear a mask. BUT WHAT ABOUT OUR RIGHTS? Why do their rights outweigh ours? Yes, information and mask recommendations have changed many times, and are confusing. But that is what happens when a brand new virus comes along- science learns over time, not instantaneously. You may be an anti masker, but you have a responsibility to the whole public- not just the ones who agree with your views. Common sense, common decency and concern for the common good of all the people should be your primary concern. Sincerely,
Barb Ford, Wales Township resident

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 27, 2021 7:06 AM
To: Posey, Jennifer
Subject: Web Contact to Administrator/Controller

I admire and support Dr Mercatante and her health policies. Please listen to science and don't make this political.
Ellen Ventimiglia

Sept 20, 2021

To : St. Clair Co. Commission

From: Karen Morgan, Pt. Huron

Re: Firing Dr. Mercatante

Your responsibilities are to improve the lives of residents and to prepare county government to meet ^{the} demands of the future. Right now, your responsibilities are to preserve the lives of residents by encouraging vaccines, mask wearing, social distancing, undermining public health officials is counterproductive to say the least. You are playing politics with the lives of school children, teachers, and staff. Support ^{the} public health system. Keep Dr. Mercatante. Thank you for your interest in my views.




Pt. Huron, MI 48060

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 30, 2021 3:51 PM
To: Posey, Jennifer
Subject: Web Contact to Administrator/Controller

CIVID is the most profound public health crisis in history. Anyone, especially elected officials, must stand up and encourage mask mandates and immunization mandates. Those who live in the land of deliberate disinformation, lies stupidity and ignorance of the magnitude of this pandemic are needlessly perpetuating the sickening and killing of your constituents. Have you lost any compassion for those you represent? Please try ,if you are able, to base policies on scientifically based data rather than the ignorance of those who are filling you with stupid and harmful disinformation attempting to divide us into angry tribalism.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 26, 2021 9:10 PM
To: Hepting, Karry
Subject: Web Contact to Administrator/Controller

Hello,

I am writing you today to let you know how disappointed I am to hear the board is trying to redact our current Covid 19 guidelines even further than they already are. I'm begging you to not remove any further mitigation strategies we have for our area until at least my 3rd grader is eligible for the vaccine. My choice to keep my child safe from Covid is getting stripped away from me one by one. I'm asking to please stop making this political and listen to the data. It has been predicted that the delta variant isn't even likely to peak in Michigan until at least October. The cases are climbing each week. We are letting misinformation and facebook memes win and that puts people's lives at risk. I thought our area was smarter than this. The wealthiest and 2nd most educated county in our state issued mask mandates but yet we are trying to destroy any effort to keep people safe. I am disappointed at how the people in this area have acted in regards to a health crisis. We have more than half a dozen churches in Marysville yet so many people seem to lack care for their neighbor. Once again, I am asking you, begging you to just let it be until elementary kids can at least get vaccinated.

Sincerely,

A very concerned longtime resident.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 23, 2021 12:51 PM
To: Hepting, Karry
Subject: Web Contact to Administrator/Controller

I Support Dr. Mercantante! She has done and continues to protect ALL people of St. Clair County. She should not be removed from her job. She knows medicine! Dr. Mercantante's guidance and knowledge will help to stop the transmission of this horrible COVID. The Commissioners need to stop. They need to support our Director of the Health Dept now!!!!

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 4:25 PM
To: Posey, Jennifer
Subject: Web Contact to Administrator/Controller

Dear Karry A. Kepting:

I am forwarding a copy of the e-mail that I sent to each Commissioner about Dr. Mercatante and the Public Health Order. Also, since there will probably be many people at the next Board of Commissioner meeting on 10-7-21, is there an alternative meeting location such as the Blue Water Convention Center?

Dear Commissioner, Jeffrey Bohm,

My name is Ruth Habalewsky, a resident of Port Huron: I am a registered Sanitarian, retired from St. Clair County Health Department. I support Dr. Annette Mercatante's Public Health Order MCL 353.2453, her leadership, authority, and her public health staff. Dr. Annette Mercatante serves in a dual capacity as the Medical and the Health Officer. The Public Health Order was needed to prevent the spread of COVID 19, and stop/decrease infection, hospitalizations, and death for the common good.

On Thursday, September 16, 2021, Commissioner David Rushing motioned a resolution to rescind Public Health Order MCL 333.2453; it passed 5 to 2. I strongly disagree with this resolution, and the possible consequences of firing Dr. Annette Mercatante. What can the board be thinking? Dr. Annette Mercatante and her staff continue to deal with the ongoing COVID issues. Dr. Annette Mercatante's orders and letters were reviewed and approved by Gary Fletcher, St. Clair County's legal counsel, and follow the state and federal protocols.

Thank you for your time.

Ruth A. Habalewsky, R.S.

[REDACTED] Port Huron

From: Dan Casey <dcasey@edascc.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 8:56 AM
To: Hepting, Karry
Cc: Hale Walker; Bohm, Jeff; Don Fletcher
Subject: Support for Annette Mercatante

EMAIL ORIGIN EXTERNAL: Please proceed with caution when viewing attachments, clicking links, or responding to this email.

Ms. Hepting,

We are writing today as co-chairman of the Leadership Council of Blue Meets Green which oversees the economic development strategic plan for St. Clair County.

In this time of controversy as we navigate the frustrations of COVID-19, we shouldn't lose sight of the outstanding leadership we've witnessed from Dr. Annette Mercatante. Regardless of one's standing on vaccinations, Dr. Mercatante's decisions have been measured, direct and consistent with CDC and general healthcare guidance. She has consistently led with the well-being of St Clair County citizens as her number one priority.

The September 20, 2021 meeting of the Blue Meets Green Leadership Council concluded with a unanimous vote of support and confidence for Dr Mercatante. Blue Meets Green represents community leadership from government, education, healthcare, nonprofit and private business. Collectively, we would like to voice our sincere appreciation for her dedication and leadership.

Sincerely,

Hale Walker and Jeffrey Bohm,

Co-chairman, Blue Meets Green Leadership Council

Dan Casey
CEO

Economic Development Alliance, St. Clair County, MI.

100 McMorran Blvd., 4th Floor

Port Huron, MI 48060

p 810.982.9511 f 982.9531

Website: www.edascc.com

For up-to-date business, community and economic development news, join us on

From: Randy Maiers <randy@stclairfoundation.org>
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 2:54 PM
To: Bohm, Jeff; Hepting, Karry
Subject: Dr. Mercatante

EMAIL ORIGIN EXTERNAL:

On behalf of the Community Foundation I would like to let all of the St. Clair County Commissioners know that we support Dr. Mercatante, and we also support and endorse the sentiments expressed by Mr. James Freed today in his editorial to the Times Herald in regards to Dr. Mercatante.

<https://www.thetimesherald.com/story/opinion/2021/09/20/city-manager-have-full-confidence-and-support-health-officials-covid/8417719002/>

Randy Maiers
President & CEO
Community Foundation of St. Clair County
www.stclairfoundation.org
810-984-4761 (o)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 31, 2021 8:34 AM
To: Hepting, Karry
Subject: Web Contact to Administrator/Controller

Good morning. I watched the school board meeting last night. I witnessed all the parents and grandparents who spoke last night and I have to say I'm the minority here. This probably why I didn't choose to attend the meeting or even to speak. While I do appreciate the passion for completely disregarding the science and the practice of mask wearing..... I'm for masks!!! I talked in depth with my pediatrician about this very thing he had said that illnesses were down across the board and that was due to masks. I know that the district has left it ultimately up to the parents here's my problem with that. If for one second anyone thinks that this isn't discussed in a family setting they are wrong. If my child wears a mask I can guarantee parents aren't having these heartfelt conversations that everyone's circumstances are different and maybe they have an immune compromised family member. Maybe they have a grandma that they haven't been able to see in a nursing home (unfortunately this is our situation) I can almost put money on it that these conversations aren't happening. So then does my child have the potential to bullied. Also another huge part of this is of course how it affects children. The most important piece. My kids did NOT mind wearing the mask. They would get in my car at pick up and have it on for most of the ride home because they were used to it. It wasn't a hinderance of any kind. I think we need to think of the greater good here. The American pediatric association has said time and time again that yes children can get the virus as well as the new variant and have in fact been hospitalized. My job and duty is to protect my child and send them to an environment that I feel has the same values as me. The other part of the discussion was the teachers and how they navigated virtual. I have to say they did an amazing job!! My children didn't suffer. In fact we chose virtual for the first semester and my children's virtual teachers were nothing short of outstanding, so much so I emailed Suzanne to make them permanent in our district. Upon returning back to F2F my older son was quarantined and his teacher handled the situation perfectly. There were a couple bumps but easily rectified when he returned back to school. I think we need to give our teachers a bit more credit for being so adaptive in a situation that none of us quite frankly have ever been prepared for. I do believe the inev is going to happen and within a couple months cases will spike in the district and we will go virtual. Which brings me to another point is that we have to figure out how we can navigate this exact situation. I hope you take all things into consideration while making this very difficult decision. This is what I sent fo our president of the school board. This needs to come from out health department or I feel like we will have sick kids. We need to protect our vulnerable population who can't get vaccinated. Shame on people for not wanting to protect our children who Can't be vaccinated! It's not abuse it's not taking away their rights it's protecting them.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 30, 2021 9:28 AM
To: Hepting, Karry
Subject: Web Contact to Administrator/Controller

Hello, I have 2 high schoolers at Marine City High School this fall. Given the COVID data for St. Clair County, I do not support wearing masks in school. They make it so intolerable to breathe through the day and is just a burden on these kids. The data numbers do not support them having to be sweaty and uncomfortable while trying to learn! Please do not mask them!

Autumn Quinn
Mallory Quinn
Jennifer Quinn
David Quinn

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 30, 2021 11:45 AM
To: Hepting, Karry
Subject: Web Contact to Administrator/Controller

Hello. I am reaching out to you to STRONGLY encourage you discuss with Dr. Mercantante that the citizens of this county DO NOT want masks on our children. I understand that there is currently no public health order in place that states children must wear masks, in school. But I want to remind you, that we DO NOT want that to change. Dr. Mercantante has made it very clear that she has no problem issuing a PHO at any time if the school districts don't follow her recommendations or do as she says. Or rather, dictates. I look forward to hearing from you soon. Thank you, and have a great day.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 30, 2021 3:44 PM
To: Hepting, Karry
Subject: Web Contact to Administrator/Controller

Please do not allow a mask mandate for our kids. St. Clair County is at 77% herd immunity between immunizations and positive cases. And total deaths is .0027237%. Our child do not deserve to carry the burden of other people's fear.



SCORE



September 23, 2021

Board of Commissioners
200 Grand River Ave.
Port Huron MI 48060

Dear Board of Commissioners,

We, the members of the Port Huron Branch of the NAACP, St. Clair County Organizing for Regional Equity, Black Lives Matter Port Huron and Community leaders (*NSBC*), write this letter in support of Dr. Annette Mercatante.

NSBC was birthed out of the plight of racial injustice at the height of the murder of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery and Breonna Taylor. Our mission is to build a more equitable, diverse, inclusive and just community that enhances the well-being for those who are underserved and underrepresented.

As we have fought to declare racism as a public health crisis Dr. Mercatante, has been very instrumental in helping us bridge the gap throughout our community as we work to address health inequities. She realized that access to healthcare could be increased by breaking down barriers of distrust and misinformation. The Health Department has worked hand in hand with organizations like ours helping to distribute information as it pertains to the Covid-19 mandates and vaccinations. She has also hosted educational forums, made direct phone contact with the elderly, the economically disadvantaged, the home bound, those with no internet and people of color. Dr. Mercatante continues to work with Black, Indigenous, People of Color and those in low income communities addressing health disparities beyond the Covid-19 pandemic.

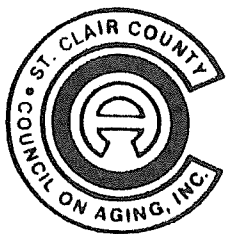
Dr. Mercatante has been a model of dedication, leadership, collaboration and perseverance, it could be noted that she has been willing to avail herself to answer questions and entertain comments even when they challenge the position she must take. Members of *NSBC* stand firmly in support of Dr. Mercatante in her role as Medical Health Officer for St. Clair County.

Sincerely,

Kevin Watkins, Co-Chair
NSBC
President, Port Huron NAACP

Kim Brown, Co-Chair
NSBC
Director, SCORE

Alphonso Amos, Co-Chair
NSBC
Lead Organizer, Black Lives Matter PH



The Council on Aging, Inc.,
serving St. Clair County
www.thecouncilonaging.org

ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

600 Grand River Avenue
Port Huron, MI 48060
Phone: (810) 987-8811

September 29, 2021

DISTRICT OFFICES:

PORT HURON SENIOR CENTER
600 Grand River Avenue
Port Huron, MI 48060-3898
Phone: (810) 984-5061

Board of Commissioners
200 Grand River Ave.
Port Huron MI 48060

WASHINGTON LIFE CENTER
403 N. Mary Street
Marine City, MI 48039
Phone: (810) 765-3523

Dear Board of Commissioners,

The Council on Aging and its Board of Directors would like to express their support of Dr. Annette Mercatante and the St. Clair County Health Department.

YALE SENIOR CENTER
3 First Street
Yale, MI 48097
Phone: (810) 387-3720

The Council on Aging serves approximately ten thousand senior citizens a year in St. Clair County and our mission is to keep those seniors safe and living as independently as possible in our community.

CONRAD COMMUNITY CENTER
585 N. Main Street
Capac, MI 48014
Phone: (810) 395-7889

The COVID pandemic has proven to be detrimental to the health and lifestyle of the seniors we serve, and our response to this pandemic was made possible through the guidance and support of Dr. Mercatante. Her counsel has been imperative to the rapid coordination and safe operation of our services, as well as enabling the maximum number of seniors to receive vaccinations as quickly as possible. With a vaccination rate of over seventy percent for those over sixty-five, it shows her dedication to protecting this age group.

The residents of St. Clair County have been fortunate to have Dr. Mercatante at the helm of the Health Department, she has worked tirelessly to follow the proven science and guidance from the CDC and State Health Department. We at the Council on Aging are thankful for all she has done to protect the seniors in St. Clair County.

Sincerely,

Scott A. Crawford
Executive Director

