

Dear City Council Members,

I am a proud fire wife, my husband is a Lieutenant for the Redmond Fire Department serving your city with pride for nearly thirteen years. In fact, I pinned his badge on his uniform with pride all those years ago in the very room where you now sit.

I am writing to voice my utter shock and anger at Mayor Birney for the way she has treated the men and women of the RFD. Mayor Birney knew those with religious objectives to the vaccine were working with the city and the department to come to acceptable accommodations. She stood by as meeting after meeting they went over their objectives with a fine tooth comb, finally coming to agreeable accommodations. She knew that the city accepted these firefighters religious accommodations and sent each of them a docu-sign laying out the acceptance and the agreed upon accommodations. She knew these men and women signed the documents. The following Monday she announced there would be no accommodations. She knew all along what she planned to do. She allowed these meetings to happen but also had her own closed door meetings where she made her actual decisions.

Mayor Birney, these firefighters have kept your citizens safe during the entirety of the pandemic. They have not transmitted COVID to or from a patient or each other. They are not a threat to your safety, they are an asset to your community.

You called them heroes for their bravery and courage and now you're kicking them to the curb. They haven't changed, their work hasn't changed. Why are they able to do their jobs today, unvaccinated and not spread COVID to patients but on October 18th they will be considered so unsafe they cannot continue their careers? This is nonsensical.

Cut out the nonsense and allow the religious exemptions and accommodations to be fulfilled, keep these firefighters within their ranks and allow them to continue serving the community they love.

Dana Carlson

From: [Amanda Peeples](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: Item from the audience
Date: Tuesday, October 5, 2021 2:26:06 PM

External Email Warning! Use caution before clicking links or opening attachments.

To the esteemed members of Redmond City Council, and the honorable Mayor Birney. I am writing you today in an effort to express my support for your decision to uphold the governors mandate requiring all healthcare workers to be vaccinated. The public has an expectation that our Firefighters and Paramedics are taking every possible precaution to ensure their safety. Furthermore, those working in that capacity should be able to rely on their brothers and sisters to take every precaution to keep each other safe and maintain the healthiest workforce possible. My husband is one of the nearly 90% of Firefighters and paramedics who are vaccinated here in the city. We have small children at home that are not able to be vaccinated. One of our greatest concerns for exposure has become not the illness he sees in the field but the transmission he is exposed to by his unvaccinated coworkers. My husband often says he feels he has a moral and ethical imperative to be vaccinated as his job is caring for our most vulnerable populations at their greatest time of need. I completely agree. I don't think it's unreasonable to hold all healthcare workers to that same standard. Thank you.

Amanda P.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Jen Palermo](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: Items from the Audience
Date: Tuesday, October 5, 2021 2:40:37 PM

External Email Warning! Use caution before clicking links or opening attachments.

To Redmond City Council and Major Birney,

I am reaching out today to express my strong support of the decision to follow the federal mandate requiring healthcare workers to be vaccinated. As a fellow healthcare worker (I work as a Clinical Psychologist), I have seen firsthand the negative effects of this pandemic and understand that working together towards vaccination of all eligible individuals is key to ending our current state.

My husband has worked for the city for nearly 15 years, first as a Firefighter and now in the role of Paramedic. At the start of the pandemic, we were so concerned about his possible exposure that he lived separately from myself and our two children for nearly three months. He has since taken the necessary step of vaccination and I implore other first responders to as well. While this is beneficial in the context of patient care, this also serves to safeguard the health of our firefighters/medics who are required to work in close quarters. It is an unfair expectation that the majority of vaccinated firefighters/medics take on the risk load of working with unvaccinated colleagues. This does not only impact our firefighters/medics, but their families as well. Please do not allow this to happen.

Respectfully,

Jennifer Palermo, PhD

From: [Jessica Marx](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: Items from the audience
Date: Tuesday, October 5, 2021 2:45:16 PM

External Email Warning! Use caution before clicking links or opening attachments.

Statement to City Council

To the esteemed members of Redmond City Council, and the honorable Mayor Birney. I am writing you today in an effort to express my support for your decision to uphold the governors mandate requiring all healthcare workers to be vaccinated. The public has an expectation that our Firefighters and Paramedics are taking every possible precaution to ensure their safety. Furthermore, those working in that capacity should be able to rely on their brothers and sisters to take every precaution to keep each other safe and maintain the healthiest workforce possible. My brother is one of the nearly 90% of Firefighters and paramedics who are vaccinated here in the city. He has small children at home that are not able to be vaccinated. One of our greatest concerns for exposure has become not the illness he sees in the field but the transmission he is exposed to by his unvaccinated coworkers. My brother often says he feels he has a moral and ethical imperative to be vaccinated as his job is caring for our most vulnerable populations at their greatest time of need. I completely agree. I don't think it's unreasonable to hold all healthcare workers to that same standard. Thank you.

From: [Jenny Rusling](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: Items from the Audience
Date: Tuesday, October 5, 2021 2:47:54 PM

External Email Warning! Use caution before clicking links or opening attachments.

Hello Redmond,

I support the mandate that all healthcare workers should be vaccinated to help keep our community safe from COVID.

Thank you,

Jenny Rusling

From: [Gayle Isaac](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: Items from the audience
Date: Tuesday, October 5, 2021 2:58:36 PM

External Email Warning! Use caution before clicking links or opening attachments.

City Council members,

Please please support the directive for all healthcare workers to be vaccinated. They are working with vulnerable patients as well as returning from their shifts to their homes where other vulnerable people might be- their children or their parents.

Thank you, Gayle Isaac.

From: [Jess](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: Items from the audience
Date: Wednesday, October 6, 2021 9:54:35 AM

External Email Warning! Use caution before clicking links or opening attachments.

Hello Redmond,

I support the mandate that all healthcare workers should be vaccinated to help keep our community safe from Covid.

Thank You,
Jessica McAloon

Sent from my iPhone

Dear City Council Members and Mayor Birney,

I'd like to start with a quote...

"To achieve this vision, I will lead the city council and staff to work with the community as well as different resources and agencies, to fully understand and address each goal and issue..."

Sound familiar? That's your statement Mayor Birney while you were running for mayor.

Leadership? Work with staff and agencies? Where is your leadership Mayor? You knew we were bargaining in good faith for accommodations, you knew we were submitting religious exemptions and the city sent us approvals which we signed on city created docu-signs. Then you came in with a blaze of glory and tore them up. Where is the mayoral candidate who came to the station asking us for our support in her race? We backed you, we supported you and you've betrayed us. We have lost complete trust in your ability to do your job with this city's best interest at heart.

I am angry. The tactics being used are bullying and coercion at the highest level. I am angry for the firefighters who have sincerely held religious beliefs that prevented them from getting this vaccine but feel backed into a corner. I'm angry that you made them chose between their faith and their ability to feed their kids. These people haven't slept in weeks, you are breaking them. Marriages strained, families torn apart and firefighters feeling forced to cave to your unethical demands. This is not leadership, it's coercion.

Have you heard of the Nuremberg code? If you have not read it for yourself in its entirety I suggest you do. I'd like to draw your attention to this section:

This means that the person involved should have legal capacity to give consent; should be so situated as to be able to exercise free power of choice, without the intervention of any element of force, fraud, deceit, duress, overreaching, or other ulterior form of constraint or coercion; and should have sufficient knowledge and comprehension of the elements of the subject matter involved as to enable him to make an understanding and enlightened decision.

I started with a quote from the mayor's campaign and I'll end with a quote. One that's been used as far back as 1779.

"I was only following orders."

'I was only following orders' has been used unsuccessfully as a legal defense in hundreds of cases, probably most notably at the Nuremberg tribunals following World War II.

Mayor Birney, please stop this nonsense and do the right thing. Stand by the firefighters who have worked to keep this city safe for the entire pandemic, zero transmission to or from patients. Allow us to keep our jobs so we can keep serving and protecting the citizens of Redmond.

Sincerely,

Lieutenant Scott Carlson

Would be 13 years with the city in January 2022