

Written Testimony On Proposed Fines for Violating Covid 19 Rules

The following are my comments on the Proposed Fines for Violating Covid 19 Rules. I understand the governments need to have some sort of penalties to prevent repeat serious violators such as occurred at McKrauts in Maloloj Inarajan.

First of all I think the fines are too high, especially for the individuals. I think you could reduce it by half.

The penalties perhaps should be tiered so that businesses that are serious repeat offenders should also not be allowed to operate for a period of time.

Secondly, some of the rules and guidelines are clearly not being adhered to even by the government. In the beginning they were overly restrictive due to the not knowing much about the virus and only recently have been relaxed. The one example critical to my health and well being is the opening of the beaches and parks. Keeping up our health during this pandemic is key to surviving any potential exposure to the Covid virus and my having access to the parks and beaches for exercise and relaxation. Though the current guidelines and rules say beaches are open many are still locked and really not open. So if I happen to go into these locked parks to access the beach and water to exercise will I be subject to fines. So the locked parks and closed beaches are contradictory to what the guidelines and rules say. So this may not be the only case with regards to the guidelines and rules. And they have changed so much that it is really a moving target. So this really needs to be clarified and perhaps fines should not be applied to this type of infraction of guidelines.

Third, some of the guidelines still need to be revised to reduce restrictions to allow for more freedom while still keeping the community safe. So as a moving target anyone enforcing such needs to make sure they are enforcing the latest guidelines. And maybe those folks should not be fined at all if the rule has just changed.

Fourth, the question of who will be giving these citations is important in that this takes time. If GPD this will take them away from critical law enforcement. So if the proposed fines are approved someone other than GPD should be giving citations.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Victor R. Torres