



## **rRemarks Data for November 9th, 2021 Village Council Meeting**

**Agenda Section:** Active

**Agenda Item:** A. ORD 2021-9155 An ordinance establishing video gaming regulations.

**Commenter:** Bryan W Bently, Downers Grove

**Comment:** Video Link Terminals

As a resident and business owner in Downers Grove I am strongly urging the Council, Mayor and Village Manager to approve Video Gaming. There is more than enough empirical data to demonstrate that this form of adult entertainment is not detrimental to the family image or reputation of the community. We need only look to Westmont, Woodridge, Lemont, Oak Brook Terrace or Lombard to see for ourselves its impact socially and economically.

Video Gaming creates a completely separate revenue stream for both the village and establishments that host it. It is a completely voluntary tax source that has no downside. Neither the Village nor the businesses where it is located needs to spend large amounts of capital resources to offer video gaming. The village estimates that it will raise \$100K to \$300K annually in revenue. Westmont realizes nearly \$385K (actual) annually from 20 locations and is about one third the size of Downers Grove and half the population. Downers Grove has more restaurant commerce and retail operations than Westmont with major footprints on Butterfield Road, Ogden Avenue and 75th street. Downers Grove could easily approve upwards of 30 locations and using Westmont's annual VLT income as a base, we could realize upwards of \$500K to \$600K annually.

Direct tax revenue is not the only benefit to approving video gaming. Giving Downers Grove Restaurants a level playing field to compete with surrounding communities will help them retain customers, attract new customers and remain competitive in these very trying times. These customers not only game; they eat, shop and spend money in the community. They will help the businesses survive, contribute to the F&B tax as well as sales taxes. Denying these customers the option of spending their discretionary entertainment dollars in Downers Grove does not stop them from gaming. It just compels them to patronize and support surrounding communities. This is a fact!

The village is always considering a number of new taxes and fees as well as raising existing taxes and fees on businesses and residents. The village should adopt an across the board approach using all available sources incrementally. Most of us will pay these, although begrudgingly. Something to consider, Video Gaming is the only new revenue source proposed where the individual willingly contributes to the coffers without objection and increases other taxes already in place. It also helps contribute to the long term success of business and not take from it.

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**Agenda Section:** Active

**Agenda Item:** A. ORD 2021-9155 An ordinance establishing video gaming regulations.

**Commenter:** Lynne Kelliher, Downers Grove

**Comment:** I support the approval of video gaming in Downers Grove and I want the Downers Grove Village Council to approve it!

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**Agenda Section:** Active

**Agenda Item:** A. ORD 2021-9155 An ordinance establishing video gaming regulations.

**Commenter:** Mr Jack Peller, Downers Grove

**Comment:** I support the approval of video gaming in Downers Grove and I want the Downers Grove Village Council to approve it!

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**Agenda Section:** Active

**Agenda Item:** A. ORD 2021-9155 An ordinance establishing video gaming regulations.

**Commenter:** Gail Fundakowski, Downers Grove

**Comment:** I support the approval of video gaming in Downers Grove and I want the Downers Grove Village Council to approve it!

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**Agenda Section:** Active

**Agenda Item:** A. ORD 2021-9155 An ordinance establishing video gaming regulations.

**Commenter:** Bryan W Bentley, Downers Grove

**Comment:** My name is Bryan Bentley. I have 35 years of experience working in the casino gaming business. Leaving the industry in industry in 2014 as the Executive Director of Table Games Operations for Caesars Entertainment at Horseshoe Southern Indiana. Currently my wife and I own a great little restaurant in Downers Grove called Bryan's American Grille.

I would like to thank the current Downers Grove Council and Councils past for their leadership. As a resident of Downers Grove it is comforting to know we have a pragmatic group of passionate individuals that take the time learn the facts about issues they are called to address. In some cases using a wait and see position before taking action in order to assess outcomes of a similar acts in other communities. However, there is a point when good intentioned rationality unnecessarily stifles progress. Video Gaming was approved by the state nearly 10 years ago. Since then 1045 municipalities have approved VLT's. Crime did not rise. There was no increase in transients. Property values did not plummet. Children were not irreparably damaged by seeing a slot machine in a restaurant. None of the apocalyptic predications came to fruition. It is time to stop citing personal opinion as fact, personal perception as reality, personal beliefs as data, and irrationality and fear as a reasons for not moving forward with approving Video Gaming in Downers Grove. Council knows the facts and council can see the actual results; if council chooses to. There is no guesswork left. Based on the facts and results observed in surrounding communities it is time for this council to approve video gaming.

There have been numerous misleading misconceptions that have been offered up during the debate and discussions in these chambers regarding video gaming, I would like to address 3 of them.

First, it was stated that Downers Grove residents would need to lose 6 million dollars for the city to realize its share in gaming taxes. And in doing so this person appeared to imply that if we don't approve gaming in Downers Grove these folks will somehow not gamble and or lose this money. While we can have a debate on the accuracy of the calculations, I can say with great assuredness that these people are already gaming today as we speak. These same Downers Grove residents are taking their money and spending it Westmont, Woodridge, Lombard, Oakbrook Terrace, Lemont and other nearby communities that have Video Gaming. Not allowing VLT's in Downers Grove is not going stop even 1 person that wants to play Video Slots from playing Video Slots. The fact is that not approving Video Slots in the village is akin to actively supporting businesses and helping fill the tax coffers of surrounding communities, while simultaneously hurting Downers Grove businesses and giving away much needed revenue.

The second misleading misconception was that VLT's are so bad cities that previously opted in are now opting out. While it is true that Forest Park changed its mind and removed slots in 2018. It is the only community in the nearly 10 year history of legalized Video Gaming in Illinois to do so. Some of the reasons Forest Park opted out were because the loudest in the room with the least amount of knowledge, fewest facts, most

emotion and greatest purveyors of fear drove that decision. Many residents in Forest Park felt and still do feel this was a terrible decision. Especially after the pandemic devastated their restaurant industry.

The third misleading misconception was an anecdotal story offered up with no context or facts about a fight that was observed at Freemont Tavern. You see Freemont offers Video Games. The implication was that the fight was somehow caused by the Video Machines being there. Now in full disclosure, I was not there, and have no first-hand knowledge of what happened, however as a restaurant owner and having 35 years of gaming experience; I'm pretty sure this fight had nothing to do with the slot machines and everything to do with the consumption of alcohol.

In the October 19th council meeting Mike Gilbert, a former village Council Member stood before you and made several very astute comments. He encouraged this council not to "Dabble" in video gaming, but to fully embrace it and derive as much benefit as possible from it. He reminded us that not too long ago downtown Downers Grove was dry. No alcohol sales. The same emotional, factually incorrect arguments that were made then to stop the council from legalizing alcohol sales at that time are the same arguments that are being made now about approving Video Gaming. It will destroy our wholesome image, attract transients, crime will increase, property values will drop and children will have easy access to alcohol. That very wise council separated the facts from opinion, perception and unsubstantiated beliefs, debated them and then bravely approved alcohol sales downtown. They knew it was unpopular among the naysayers, but they also knew it was the right decision. Well, all these years later we should all thank them for their independence and courage. Our precious downtown as we know it would be non-existent as would be the revenue these businesses contribute to the village. Can you imagine what your real estate tax bill would look like today, your schools, roads, playgrounds and infrastructure without the revenue Cadence, Foxtail, Pierce Tavern, Emmet's, Wasabi, Bar Chido, Capri, ETC., pay to the village?

It can be proven that selling alcohol can contribute to drawing transients, increasing crime, deleteriously affecting property values and negatively impacting the image of communities; these things never happened in Downers Grove. Why? Because we had strong leadership that put effective laws and rules in place for selling alcohol in the entire village. This council possesses the same qualities of courage and wisdom of the council that brought alcohol sales to downtown. Heed the lessons of the past and make the right decision. Approve Video Gaming tonight tonight.

I just mentioned several real and possible realities that are part and parcel associated with the sale of alcohol. These realities are facts that one need not look too hard to verify.

Many people have tried to apply these same facts to Video Gaming. However, the real facts regarding video gaming do not comport to their perceptions, opinions and beliefs. We can prove empirically with data, facts and actual results that Video Gaming DOES NOT destroy the wholesome image of communities, it DOES NOT attract transients, (unless that is what you call your family, friends and neighbors these days), crime DOES NOT increase, property values DO NOT drop and children are not overly influenced or for that matter care about the sight of gaming terminals. They are usually fully consumed with using perhaps an equally harmful piece of technology with flashing lights, their cell phones.

We know there is a threshold of tolerance for allowing “sin related activities” in Downers Grove such as Vape or head shops as they were better known as back in the day, marijuana dispensaries and selling alcohol in restaurants. Compared to these currently legal activities in Downers Grove; Video Gaming hardly even registers on the “sin” tolerance scale.

I am urging this council to summon the courage it possesses and to use the wisdom it has. Divest yourselves from the heated anecdotal rhetoric, ignore the emotional pleadings, listen to, but not give greater weight to the loudest in the room, including those in private council chambers, heed the facts and do the right thing. Even as some here offer up their passionate vociferous opposition as others did during the debate to approve alcohol sales downtown. This independent and brave council will be remembered with the same favor as the council that approved alcohol sales downtown so many years ago. The passing of time and history will demonstrate your decision to approve Video Gaming in Downers Grove was correct one.

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**Agenda Section:** Active

**Agenda Item:** A. ORD 2021-9155 An ordinance establishing video gaming regulations.

**Commenter:** Kristin Knott

**Comment:** I support

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**Agenda Section:** Active

**Agenda Item:** A. ORD 2021-9155 An ordinance establishing video gaming regulations.

**Commenter:** Wayne Schumacher

**Comment:** I support the approval of video gaming in Downers Grove and I want the Downers Grove Village Council to approve it!

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**Agenda Section:** Active

**Agenda Item:** A. ORD 2021-9155 An ordinance establishing video gaming regulations.

**Commenter:** Matt Cox, Lombard

**Comment:** I support video gaming in Downers Grove, in order to give local businesses the chance to compete with other surrounding towns, who already have approved this source of revenue.

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**Agenda Section:** Active

**Agenda Item:** A. ORD 2021-9155 An ordinance establishing video gaming regulations.

**Commenter:** Jill Sturm

**Comment:** I support the approval of video gaming in Downers Grove and I want the Downers Grove Village Council to approve it! I want to see local businesses in downers grove stay competitive and in business to keep growth within the community.

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**Agenda Section:** Active

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**Commenter:** Ron Dimitrakopoulos, Downers Grove

**Comment:** I support the approval of video gaming in Downers Grove and I want the Downers Grove Village Council to approve it!

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**Agenda Section:** Active

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**Commenter:** Brian sewell, Downers Grove

**Comment:** I support allowing business in DG to operate video gaming. DG needs to stop impeding business and start supporting our restaurants

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**Agenda Section:** Active

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**Commenter:** Vince Vivirito, Downers Grove

**Comment:** I support the approval of video gaming in Downers Grove and I want the Downers Grove Village Council to approve it!

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**Agenda Section:** Active

**Agenda Item:** A. ORD 2021-9155 An ordinance establishing video gaming regulations.

**Commenter:** Rob Green, Downers Grove

**Comment:** I support the approval of video gaming in Downers Grove and I want the Downers Grove Village Council to approve it! Why let Westmont get all the revenue?

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**Agenda Section:** Active

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**Commenter:** Henry Lazzaro

**Comment:** I support video gaming within the Downers Grove City limits. Please support passage sooner rather than later....

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**Agenda Section:** Active

**Agenda Item:** A. ORD 2021-9155 An ordinance establishing video gaming regulations.

**Commenter:** Kathy Kulovany

**Comment:** NO VIDEO GAMING IN DOWNERS GROVE.

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**Agenda Section:** Active

**Agenda Item:** A. ORD 2021-9155 An ordinance establishing video gaming regulations.

**Commenter:** Jim Devitt, Downers Grove

**Comment:** I support the approval of video gaming in Downers Grove and I want the Downers Grove Village Council to approve it! Why should we let dollars leave DG to go to all the surrounding towns?

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**Agenda Section:** Active

**Agenda Item:** A. ORD 2021-9155 An ordinance establishing video gaming regulations.

**Commenter:** Shannon h, Downers Grove

**Comment:** I support the passage of video gaming in Downers Grove and strongly urge the council to pass the ordinance legalizing it tomorrow!

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**Agenda Section:** Active

**Agenda Item:** A. ORD 2021-9155 An ordinance establishing video gaming regulations.

**Commenter:** Jen Adams

**Comment:** *comment section left blank*

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**Agenda Section:** Active

**Agenda Item:** A. ORD 2021-9155 An ordinance establishing video gaming regulations.

**Commenter:** Susan Long

**Comment:** I totally support allowing video gaming in Downers Grove and totally support city council voting to approve

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**Agenda Section:** Active

**Agenda Item:** A. ORD 2021-9155 An ordinance establishing video gaming regulations.

**Commenter:** Kimberly Golden, Downers Grove

**Comment:** I support the approval of video gaming in Downers Grove and I want the Downers Grove Village Council to approve it!

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**Agenda Section:** Active

**Agenda Item:** A. ORD 2021-9155 An ordinance establishing video gaming regulations.

**Commenter:** Ginger T Pollard, Downers Grove

**Comment:** I support the approval of video gaming in Downers Grove and I want the Downers Grove Village Council to approve it!

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**Agenda Section:** Active

**Agenda Item:** Comments of a General Nature

**Commenter:** David Rose, Downers Grove

**Comment:** We are seeing a full court press in media, government, and private business to get Americans 'vaccinated' to prevent the spread of covid 19. The social pressure comes complete with the political Left – not the political Right this time (as happened last time) – castigating a star professional football player for his behavior.

The media's role in the pressuring is exemplified by the contrast in its treatment of two prominent positive cases: Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers is castigated for testing positive for covid while NOT being vaccinated; White House press secretary Jan Psaki's testing positive for covid is applauded as evidence of the BENEFIT of being vaccinated.

Members of village council (VC) have periodically urged vaccination as part of their commissioner reports. Comm K spoke about it from personal experience in his report at 21 Sep VC meeting.

Problem is: neither Comm K, extrapolating from his personal experience, nor any other member of council has acknowledged the full breadth of discussion and research.

Should SOME people get the shot? Probably. Namely those people at high risk of serious outcome if they should contract the virus.

Should healthy adults, should children, should everyone eligible? Contrary to the mainstream narrative, the evidence is NOT so convincing.

I submitted two electronic remarks suggesting why covid, vaccines, and vaccine and mask mandates are such politically charged issues in the US. For anyone interested, look on the village's archived meeting pages for 03 Aug and 10 Aug 2021 and click on "remarks".

At this juncture the counter narrative on covid, which opposes widespread mRNA injections, continues to be aggressively suppressed/criticized in the US, in spite of growing evidence undercutting the mainstream narrative's claim that the only way to stop the pandemic is by widespread – nearly universal – injections.

Simple example: ivermectin as an element of treatment for covid continues to be ridiculed in the US, yet on 10 Oct I came across a posting that the head of the Tokyo Metropolitan Medical Association, in opposition to Japanese government's official position, has for months advocated using ivermectin to help deal with covid. This recommendation follows on the most well-known case of which I am aware, that of Uttar Pradesh, a state in northern India of nearly 200 million people.

Perhaps, most noteworthy for Americans, on 12 Oct I learned of a study reported on NIH dot gov website of research (mentioned on tae on 12 Oct) reporting on using ivermectin as a covid prophylactic for health care workers in the Dom Repub. "Ivermectin as a SARS-CoV-2 Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis Method in Healthcare Workers: A Propensity Score-Matched Retrospective Cohort Study" (pubmed dot ncbi dot nim dot nih dot gov/34513523). Indeed, searching pubmed on the nih dot gov website with "ivermectin covid-19" yields 31 pages of results.

The Merck pill getting so much attention in the news in recent days, molnupiravir, has the same prophylactic objective as ivermectin, another Merck drug but alas to Merck one no longer under patent protection. Technically, emergency use is supposed to be authorized only if other (preferably cheaper) alternatives do not exist. Which technically

is not the case here. Skeptics of the new pill also question, because of its biochemical mechanisms, just how safe the new pill will be in its overall effect.

For an explanation of why ivermectin hasn't gotten more support in dealing with covid, see [www.aier.org/article/the-fdas-war-against-the-truth-on-ivermectin](http://www.aier.org/article/the-fdas-war-against-the-truth-on-ivermectin).

In many places, such as UK, Singapore, and Israel, covid cases have not declined with increased vaccination. Harvard Business School for example in late Sep went to full remote learning due to an outbreak of cases, this in spite of the fact nearly 100% of its students and faculty were "fully vaccinated."

Which should suggest why requiring proof of vaccination and proof of a negative test result only for the UN-vaccinated are not equivalent and NOT protective. If the vaccinated are potentially a spreader, they too should be tested! It's the same logic underpinning why mask mandates were reinstated, regardless of vaccination status. (more on this point below.)

Another example: According to data collected by CMS (Medicare) in the US about people over 65, as of 07 Aug 60% of those hospitalized with covid were 'fully vaccinated.' (Again, this has not been widely publicized)

So what's the problem? Data suggests the effectiveness of the mRNA shot(s) declines within months, and does not seem to provide the same level and breadth of immunity 'natural infection' does. Hence the need for a "booster shot." Which begs the obvious question of whether those who have been vaccinated will need to get boosters on a semi-annual or greater frequency in order to try to protect themselves. It also begs the question of whether medical/pharmaceutical science will be able to keep up with mutations of the virus in producing new models of injections in timely fashion.

It also means it is NOT accurate to call this latest increase of cases "a disease of the unvaccinated." And should also suggest what we really need is a test to determine one's level of long-term immunity.

Interestingly, in that vein, individuals who have recovered from covid are going to court to try to prevent their employer from terminating them for refusing to be vaccinated. They are arguing their now-natural immunity means they do not need to be injected and do not want to risk injection. Thus far, of the legal cases I've seen reported, the courts have ruled against plaintiffs. Does such a decision "follow (or not follow) the science?"

Are the shots safe, i.e., have no harmful side-effects? Not really. Data suggests greater frequency of adverse effects with covid shots than with prior vaccines. Iceland, Sweden, Denmark, and Finland for example have stopped using the Moderna shot because of its adverse effects on the cardiovascular system. Sweden has done so indefinitely.

Skeptics of the vaccines worry the data collection of adverse events is underreporting their actual frequency. In that vein, critics also fear up till now not enough research has been done to investigate how many have died from effects of the shot itself; in the US those dying within 14 days of being injected are deemed "un-vaccinated." Taiwan tracks such events differently.

All of which should suggest why people resist vaccine mandates and vaccine passports.

Flight cancellation problems at Southwest Airlines, which the company initially blamed on weather and traffic control issues, were suspected due to its pilots showing their displeasure with the company's vaccine mandate, a mandate their union is trying to fight in court.

It is worth emphasizing that not until 13 Oct did the Biden administration (OHSAs) put forward a draft of an official federal mandate. The administration's prior executive order/press release that it intended to issue a mandate was sufficient to trigger the desired effect for 'lower levels' of government and private businesses to impose mandates on their own. Some did; some didn't; the difference usually following along political party lines. When a mandate becomes official federal policy, expect an avalanche of lawsuits.

News reports indicate various public employee unions are resisting mandates. With labor shortages already plaguing assorted public and private entities, will vax mandates aggravate the shortages further? What will happen if teachers or police or hospital workers resist a mandate? What will happen if the country's commander-in-chief imposes a mandate on the military and the rank-and-file troops resist?

The reason for a vaccine mandate by the mandating entity seems to rest less on a presumption a vaccinated workforce reduces the likelihood of inhibiting the spread than on a presumption it decreases the incursion of medical costs for covid hospitalization. Presuming of course the jobs actually work as advertised. If they don't, then what? The pharmaceutical companies have protection from legal liability. Will the various mandating entities be 'step-fathered' into such legal protection as well? Or will the

federal government graciously step in and deal with the legal and financial ramifications?

So the salient question remains: Is jabbing the population the preferred/best way to stop the pandemic?

Correspondence in the European Journal of Epidemiology published 30 Sep 2021 is titled "Increases in Covid-19 are unrelated to levels of vaccination across 68 countries and 2947 counties in the United States." This research affirms an observation I first became aware of from an interview American epidemiologist Michael Osterholm did on Amanpour and Co. on 02/03 Aug. The interview sparked my second electronic remark to the VC cited above.

And then there is the still more worrisome report from the UK suggesting vaccination is in fact not all that protective. Measured on a per-population basis, for weeks 36 to 41 of 2021, for EVERY age group above 30 years old rate of infection was higher for those who were fully vaccinated compared to the un-vaccinated. HIGHER, not lower!

For the weeks 36 to 39 in 2020, the UK had 571 covid deaths. In 2021, there were 3026 covid deaths, 2281 (75%) of which were people fully vaccinated (i.e., more than 14 days past dose 2).

Is the "delta plus" variant spreading in the UK the primary reason for this worrisome difference in effect? See for example:

"The spike protein of SARS-CoV-2 variant A.30 is heavily mutated and evades vaccine-induced antibodies with high efficiency" ([www.nature.com/articles/s41423-021-00779-5](http://www.nature.com/articles/s41423-021-00779-5))

What happens should this variant gain a foothold elsewhere?

Furthermore, a worrisome hypothesis sparked by the UK and related data is that while being mRNA-injected may succeed in preventing serious effects from covid for the person injected, albeit as noted above permitting the individual to remain a covid spreader, the side-effects of the injection may include disruption/inhibition of the individual's immune system's capability to ward off other invaders and maintain suppression of latent disease conditions an individual is trying to manage. Data is beginning to emerge on that hypothesis, in the form of data suggesting 'excess deaths' and increased incidence of medical problems are occurring in places where rate of

vaccination is higher. That possibility adds to the list of reasons the unvaccinated will choose to remain so, at least vis-a-vis the mRNA jabs, and presents a grave concern for those who are already vaccinated – and for our medical care system – going forward.

Covid vaccine believers of course reject all such claims, and remain believers.

[Interestingly, the public health policy debate about covid vaccines is not unlike the economic policy debate about the wisdom of repeatedly injecting liquidity into the American economy: injections help overcome economic stagnation in the short term, on the hope/presumption said injections will not have adverse consequences over the long term.]

The more cynical and paranoid worry the harmful effects of injection are a feature, not a bug, part of an effort to depopulate the globe. But even if due simply to a mistaken or premature decision, if the net effect of injections turns out to be negative over time, the impact potentially dwarfs every similar such pharmaceutical intervention.

The weird irony of the politicization of the pandemic is that each side in the US (Dems v Repubs) sees itself as engaging in safe behavior and the other side as trying to kill its own supporters by the nature of its response to the virus. The political Right rejects the jabs on the grounds they do more harm than good; the political Left rejects going un-jabbed on the grounds doing so does more harm than good.

The proof ultimately will be in the pudding. Time will tell.

In the meantime,...

Are people in the US dying due to this pandemic? Undeniably.

But even in that regard, we see a contrast in how data is reported and interpreted: if a person known to be covid positive dies, did the person die “due to covid” or “with covid.” The distinction is intended to convey a “straw that broke the camel’s back” difference; if an individual with an array of co-morbidities contracts covid and dies, is a particular one of the set of morbidities deemed the “cause of death?” Skeptics believe this lack of nuance is a prime reason the number of deaths in the US (around the world?) attributed to covid is higher than appropriate, i.e., scientifically defensible, particularly for purposes of making public health policy.

The tragedy for the US is the one I identified in a comment to VC months ago: the US has been willing to tolerate for decades a worsening of baseline health for a substantial part of its population, and has relied on its medical care system to mitigate the consequences.

The covid shot was always intended to be a mitigator not a preventer. Technically, it is NOT a vaccine; it is supposed to be a therapeutic. [Related side-note: the CDC changed its definition of 'vaccine' in Sep to allow authorities to continue referring to the therapeutic jab as a vaccine.] Those who resist relying on it as the primary or sole method argue other paths of mitigation are available that we can and should take. Notably ...

That the dominant public health message should be: get healthy and fit, and boost your immune system, notably your body's level of vitamin D3 and zinc.

The related public health question in the US should be: what about the way American capitalism operates needs to change for the country to have a generally healthy population?

That's the real issue of course, but no public health official or corporate or political leader can say that out loud without risking losing their job.

The American people seem to have begun asking that question, albeit indirectly; it's being called "the Great Resignation." People refusing to work for crap: crap bosses and owners, crap wages and benefits, crap work conditions, crap treatment from customers, helping make products that belong in the crapper – a waste of time, energy, resources, and labor.

Thus, I would suggest we witness with covid here in the US another instance why people have come to distrust institutions: policy is grounded less on discussion and debate and more on exercise of power. It's not unlike VC's refusal to engage in discussing my criticism of its definition of and approach to ENVS and its refusal to allow public discussion of the existence and work of its Economic Development Corporation (EDC).

The parallel suggests the core problem: people invested in and benefitting from the current arrangement – whose imagination begins and ends with capitalism – don't want change. It's easier and less threatening to their personal power and status to recommend "get the shot." It's easier to say, echoing the mayor's vague defense, 'capitalism can always do better.'

How does one achieve political compromise when leaders and supporters of our two major political parties now view the other party as fascists – each advocates freedom of choice or mandates, depending on the issue. Conservatives for example advocate choice on vaccines and mandates against abortion; liberals want the opposite. As suggested above, each has come to view the other as a literal threat to both individual and societal life. Which should suggest why political compromise has become so difficult and why, more ominously, it feels like we are edging toward civil war.

Why is all this happening?

My answer remains that the multiplicity of our problems must be understood as evidence of our failure to live environmentally sustainably, to live within our planet's resource limits. Neither major party in our country is prepared to go far enough to address that challenge, which is to say both are in fact threats to individual and societal life. Senator Joe Manchin is the face of the problem in the US right now, but as I have also been arguing, even much of the environmental movement is unable or unwilling to acknowledge the full scope of the challenge we face, i.e., of how much our way of life must change.

As teen activist Greta Thunberg so aptly phrased it, governments addressing climate change is simply “blah, blah, blah.” Her terse assessment reflects that our core problem is both political economic and ecologic: nations, social classes, and individual people battle for power and privilege, and associated economic well-being; that battle manifests as a relentless effort to exploit increasing numbers of energy slaves upon which one's social and societal standing is based.

Thanks to the energy slaves on which we rely, we have been encouraged/seduced, at least until recently, to believe in a fantasy – to believe we live on a planet of unlimited resources, resources just waiting to be tapped by the big-brained, demigod species we proclaim at least some of us to be. It's the ecologic version of heaven on earth.

Even as we have been forced to begin to question the validity of that belief, we find ourselves entrapped by our collective unwillingness to abandon the political economic competition. The more elevated one's standing, the more entrapped one's thinking and acting. Like all slave owners throughout history, we can't imagine life any other way.

But reality is slapping us in the face, increasingly harder. Snarled supply chains are the currently most visible and direct effect of the many problems produced by our environmentally unsustainable way of life now cascading down upon us.

So I will say again: We need to recognize covid and all the other warning signs flashing around us as a cue to think again.

Here at the local level, I continue to watch for glimmers suggesting such thinking again is within the capability and desire of DG's VC, VM, staff, related taxing bodies, and residents.

Hope springs eternal.

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**Agenda Section:** Active

**Agenda Item:** A. ORD 2021-9155 An ordinance establishing video gaming regulations.

**Commenter:** James Weyrick, Downers Grove

**Comment:** My name is James Weyrick and I own Downers Sand Club Sports Bar & Grill. I am 100% in on supporting video gaming to be brought into Downers Grove. By voting YES for this will not only allow the Village to pay for repairs and upgrades with this money, but will also allow businesses like mine to compete with others around the suburbs to insure we can make that extra money we need to survive in this crazy world right now.

For those of you on the council that are NOT for the video gaming, I would like you to ask yourselves why are you against? Approving this will not only help your town saving money on repairs and upgrades, but will also help businesses make money and stay open instead of closing down like so many have already.

Thanks for your time and hope you all approve this measure which is majorly overdue for this town.

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**Agenda Section:** Active

**Agenda Item:** A. ORD 2021-9155 An ordinance establishing video gaming regulations.

**Commenter:** Robert Taft, Downers Grove

**Comment:** I support the approval of video gaming in Downers Grove and I want the Downers Grove Village Council to approve it!

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**Agenda Section:** Active

**Agenda Item:** A. ORD 2021-9155 An ordinance establishing video gaming regulations.

**Commenter:** Laura Hois, Downers Grove

**Comment:** I support the approval of video gaming in Downers Grove (exclusive of the downtown Downers Grove areas) and I want the Downers Grove Village Council to approve it!

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**Agenda Section:** Active

**Agenda Item:** A. ORD 2021-9155 An ordinance establishing video gaming regulations.

**Commenter:** Anita LoVerde, Downers Grove

**Comment:** I support the approval of video gaming in Downers Grove and I want the Downers Grove Village Council to approve it!

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**Agenda Section:** Active

**Agenda Item:** A. ORD 2021-9155 An ordinance establishing video gaming regulations.

**Commenter:** Rachel

**Comment:** I support the approval of video gaming in Downers Grove and I want the Downers Grove Village Council to approve it!

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**Agenda Section:** Active

**Agenda Item:** A. ORD 2021-9155 An ordinance establishing video gaming regulations.

**Commenter:** Casey, Woodridge

**Comment:** *comment section left blank*

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**Agenda Section:** Active

**Agenda Item:** A. ORD 2021-9155 An ordinance establishing video gaming regulations.

**Commenter:** John Kolb, Downers Grove

**Comment:** I support the approval of video gaming in Downers Grove and I want the Downers Grove Village Council to approve it!

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**Agenda Section:** Active

**Agenda Item:** A. ORD 2021-9155 An ordinance establishing video gaming regulations.

**Commenter:** Jon Kerfman

**Comment:** I support the approval of video gaming in Downers Grove and I want the Downers Grove Village Council to approve it!

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**Agenda Section:** Active

**Agenda Item:** A. ORD 2021-9155 An ordinance establishing video gaming regulations.

**Commenter:** Frances Jones, Downers Grove

**Comment:** Support allowing slot machines in restaurants in Downers Grove

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**Agenda Section:** Active

**Agenda Item:** D. RES 2021-9180 Resolution Appropriating \$127,048.57 of Rebuild Illinois Funds for the Village Share of the 71st Street Resurfacing Project

**Commenter:** Carols Reinoso, Glendale Heights

**Comment:** *comment section left blank*

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**Agenda Section:** Active

**Agenda Item:** A. ORD 2021-9155 An ordinance establishing video gaming regulations.

**Commenter:** Jim Hanus, Beecher

**Comment:** I support the approval of video gaming in Downers Grove and I want the Downers Grove Village Council to approve it!

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**Agenda Section:** Active

**Agenda Item:** A. ORD 2021-9155 An ordinance establishing video gaming regulations.

**Commenter:** David F Phillips, Bolingbrook

**Comment:** Please let them have gaming.

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**Agenda Section:** Active

**Agenda Item:** A. ORD 2021-9155 An ordinance establishing video gaming regulations.

**Commenter:** Tim Hughes

**Comment:** I support the approval of video gaming in Downers Grove and I want the Downers Grove Village Council to approve it!

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**Agenda Section:** Active

**Agenda Item:** A. ORD 2021-9155 An ordinance establishing video gaming regulations.

**Commenter:** Carolyn Grilli

**Comment:** *comment section blank*

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**Agenda Section:** Active

**Agenda Item:** A. ORD 2021-9155 An ordinance establishing video gaming regulations.

**Commenter:** Ali Wuest, Downers Grove

**Comment:** Yes. I support the approval of video gaming in Downers Grove and I want the Downers Grove Village Council to approve it!

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**Agenda Section:** Active

**Agenda Item:** A. ORD 2021-9155 An ordinance establishing video gaming regulations.

**Commenter:** Megan Collins

**Comment:** I support the approval of video gaming in Downers Grove and I want the Downers Grove Village Council to approve it!

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**Agenda Section:** Active

**Agenda Item:** A. ORD 2021-9155 An ordinance establishing video gaming regulations.

**Commenter:** Javier Rodriguez

**Comment:** I support the approval of video gaming in Downers Grove and I want the Downers Grove Village Council to approve it!

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**Agenda Section:** Active

**Agenda Item:** A. ORD 2021-9155 An ordinance establishing video gaming regulations.

**Commenter:** Brittni Sobanski

**Comment:** *comment section left blank*

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**Agenda Section:** Active

**Agenda Item:** A. ORD 2021-9155 An ordinance establishing video gaming regulations.

**Commenter:** Beth Rojek

**Comment:** I support video gaming in Downers Grove and I want the Downers Grove city council to approve it too.

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**Agenda Section:** Active

**Agenda Item:** A. ORD 2021-9155 An ordinance establishing video gaming regulations.

**Commenter:** Michael McCaffery, Naperville

**Comment:** *comment section left blank*

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**Agenda Section:** Active

**Agenda Item:** A. ORD 2021-9155 An ordinance establishing video gaming regulations.

**Commenter:** Michael Hess

**Comment:** I support the approval of video gaming in Downers Grove and I want the Downers Grove Village Council to approve it!

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**Agenda Section:** Active

**Agenda Item:** A. ORD 2021-9155 An ordinance establishing video gaming regulations.

**Commenter:** Sydney Rice, Woodridge

**Comment:** Downers grove should legalize video gaming in bars and restaurants

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**Agenda Section:** Active

**Agenda Item:** A. ORD 2021-9155 An ordinance establishing video gaming regulations.

**Commenter:** Lisa Dorner, Downers Grove

**Comment:** Please approve video gaming in Downers Grove, so that our bars and restaurants can win back patronage from other local establishments where it is allowed.

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**Agenda Section:** Active

**Agenda Item:** A. ORD 2021-9155 An ordinance establishing video gaming regulations.

**Commenter:** Erik Ruby, Aurora

**Comment:** *comment section left blank*

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**Agenda Section:** Active

**Agenda Item:** A. ORD 2021-9155 An ordinance establishing video gaming regulations.

**Commenter:** Russ Dorner, Downers Grove

**Comment:** Please approve video gaming. The village could use the tax base.

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**Agenda Section:** Active

**Agenda Item:** A. ORD 2021-9155 An ordinance establishing video gaming regulations.

**Commenter:** Andrew Taft, Downers Grove

**Comment:** I support the approval of video gaming in Downers Grove and I want the Downers Grove Village Council to approve it!

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**Agenda Section:** Active

**Agenda Item:** A. ORD 2021-9155 An ordinance establishing video gaming regulations.

**Commenter:** James Guinn, Downers Grove

**Comment:** I do not understand why video gaming would not allowed in the downtown area. We already have a Methadone clinic. If done properly, the gaming should not be an eyesore. As a Moose member, if feel gaming will help our Lodge, generate revenue for the community and for Mooseheart.

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**Agenda Section:** Active

**Agenda Item:** A. ORD 2021-9155 An ordinance establishing video gaming regulations.

**Commenter:** Tony Cesare, Downers Grove

**Comment:** I support allowing for video gaming downtown, particularly for The Moose lodge and the Tivoli. The ordinance does not require gaming, merely provides an option, restaurant owners can make there own decisions from there.

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**Agenda Section:** Active

**Agenda Item:** A. ORD 2021-9155 An ordinance establishing video gaming regulations.

**Commenter:** Marena Parrish

**Comment:** I support for video gaming at Moose and all establishments should be treated same regardless of location.

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**Agenda Section:** Active

**Agenda Item:** A. ORD 2021-9155 An ordinance establishing video gaming regulations.

**Commenter:** Jason Linder, Downers Grove

**Comment:** There should be no exclusion of electronic gaming for any establishment based solely on their location. Restricting businesses in the downtown from this, simply because they're in the down town, is a willful act of ignorance, and displays a baseless prejudice against electronic video gaming and the people that partake in it. If restrictions are imposed, it should be against all businesses, or no businesses.

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**Agenda Section:** Active

**Agenda Item:** A. ORD 2021-9155 An ordinance establishing video gaming regulations.

**Commenter:** David Klein, Downers Grove

**Comment:** I support the additional revenue that video gaming will provide. I also think all establishments should be treated the same regardless of location like being downtown. I would prefer a downtown location since I can walk there whereas Ogden Ave is too far for me to walk (or Belmont or 63rd or 75th).

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**Agenda Section:** Active

**Agenda Item:** A. ORD 2021-9155 An ordinance establishing video gaming regulations.

**Commenter:** Steven Lytle

**Comment:** Allowing video gambling in Downers Grove would allow our restaurants and businesses to attract additional customers. I would like to see the positive impact tax revenue from video gambling could have on our community.

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**Agenda Section:** Active

**Agenda Item:** A. ORD 2021-9155 An ordinance establishing video gaming regulations.

**Commenter:** Lauren Borjon, Downers Grove

**Comment:** Exempt the Moose in Downers Grove from gaming policy

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**Agenda Section:** Active

**Agenda Item:** A. ORD 2021-9155 An ordinance establishing video gaming regulations.

**Commenter:** Katherine Leon, Bolingbrook

**Comment:** I think it would be a great advantage for Q Bar

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**Agenda Section:** Active

**Agenda Item:** A. ORD 2021-9155 An ordinance establishing video gaming regulations.

**Commenter:** Nancy Torres, Downers Grove

**Comment:** I am in favor of allowing video gaming in Downers Grove. I believe it should be offered city-wide and should not be banned from downtown establishments. In particular, I think the city should make sure that the Moose Lodge is treated fairly by being allowed to participate if other clubs and fraternal organizations are allowed to get video gaming.

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**Agenda Section:** Active

**Agenda Item:** A. ORD 2021-9155 An ordinance establishing video gaming regulations.

**Commenter:** Robert B Brown, Downers Grove

**Comment:** I approve of allowing video gaming in Downers Grove

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**Agenda Section:** Active

**Agenda Item:** A. ORD 2021-9155 An ordinance establishing video gaming regulations.

**Commenter:** Hugh Golden, Downers Grove

**Comment:** Hello my name is Hugh Golden and as a 32 year resident of Downers Grove I support the allowing of video gaming in the village. I do not see any down side to this but this will allow our places of business to compete equally with the communities surrounding us. Please do not hamstring the buisnesses the village has and that add to our tax base.

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**Agenda Section:** Active

**Agenda Item:** A. ORD 2021-9155 An ordinance establishing video gaming regulations.

**Commenter:** Martin T. McAlpin, Downers Grove

**Comment:** Good evening, Mayor and Village Council Members:

My name is Marty McAlpin, a Downers Grove resident, and Municipal Engagement Manager for Prairie State Gaming.

Thank you for your consideration of video gaming in Downers Grove and the thoughtful, reasoned discussion you've had thus far on this topic.

As I mentioned in my statement last week, as a DG resident and someone who grew up in Downers, I am very proud of the unique downtown and historical nature of the village. I'm very mindful of this within my advocacy work around this issue because I believe that is something worth protecting.

What I love most about Downers Grove is that it has something to offer everyone. Implementing the use of video gaming terminals will not negatively impact the brand of Downers Grove. It will be seamlessly implemented into the community fabric and structure.

Do not let the vocal opposition move you away from doing what you know is in the best interest for Downers Grove and business community. Other municipalities are strategically opting-in to video gaming to help their business diversify in an ever-changing market. The Mayor has asked the EDC to weigh in on this. The EDC produced a strategic plan which has been analyzed by our company to show the value that video gaming can provide priority action items within that very strategic plan.

The opposition debate on this subject is based on fear and uncertainty. Rational decisions are not made when faced with a preponderance of this sentiment. Instead, a

potential approach would be to trust the work of staff and the countless hours that people working on this issue provided to help get us to this point; a model ordinance that we can be proud of.

Another option would be to truly let the public decide and put this to a referendum. The deadline to submit this question to the County is March 21st.

Either way, we have seen enough of “mob culture” in our current society and we must work to prevent our leaders from making decisions based on the attitudes and emotions of fear based individuals.

Thank you,

Marty McAlpin