

Regular Meeting of County Commissioners
Tuesday April 14, 2020

The special scheduled meeting of the County Commissioners was convened virtually at 10:03 a.m. with the following persons in attendance:

Reuben B. Collins II, Esq., President, County Commissioner
Bobby Rucci, Vice President, County Commissioner
Gilbert O. Bowling, III, County Commissioner
Thomasina O. Coates, M.S., County Commissioner
Amanda M. Stewart, M.Ed., County Commissioner
Mark Belton, County Administrator
Wesley Adams, County Attorney
Carol A. DeSoto, Clerk to the Commissioners

Call to Order/Pledge

Commissioner Collins called the meeting to order and Commissioner Stewart led the pledge of allegiance.

Charles County Health Department Update: Coronavirus/COVID-19

Dr. Suzan Lowry, Health Officer, Charles County Health Department shared latest efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19 (Coronavirus) along with an update on the number of cases in Charles County; a review of the policies related to long care facilities and nursing homes; and the Health Department's increased efforts to educate the public by trying to reach all communities. Dr Lowry, under her authority outlined in COMAR Section 10.06.01.06, issued the directive that the public wear face coverings in grocery stores, pharmacies, retail establishments and public transportation. This directive also enforces the capacity limits of allowing a smaller number of customers in a store at any given time to allow physical distancing of at least six (6) feet. Businesses must provide face coverings for employees. This order goes into effect on April 15, 2020. Dr. Lowry also explained that those individuals who may have an impairment and not able to wear a face covering should call the Health Department for further direction.

The Commissioners requested updates on positive cases of COVID-19 in Charles County by zip codes as well as the breakdown by ethnicity.

Sheriff Berry, Charles County Sheriff's Office, joined the discussion related to enforcement of such order. He explained that educating the public is most important. He furthered, that the Sheriff's Office will respond to any calls received and will comply with mitigations under the rules and best practices guidance given by the States Attorney's Office.

Ms. Michelle Lilly, Director, Department of Emergency Services, provided comments on the use of face masks and the importance for the public to understand the need for them. She also spoke about the ninety-five (95) homemade face masks that have been donated to first responders.

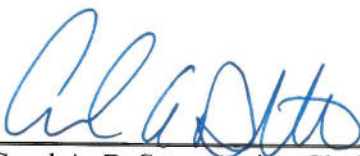
Mr. Wes Adams, County Attorney, Office of the County Attorney, reviewed the authority that the Health Official has to implement this type of policy in the County to control the spread of this pandemic.

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In support of this directive the Commissioners requested a resolution be drafted as well.

A motion was made by Commissioner Stewart, seconded by Commissioner Rucci and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to approve Resolution 2020-07 for the Board of County Commissioners' Support of the Charles County Health Officer's Public Health Directive.

At 11:02 a.m. a motion was made by Commissioner Coates, seconded by Commissioner Stewart and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to adjourn.



Carol A. DeSoto, Acting Clerk



Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq., President