

Public Comment for April 7 Meeting

- **Leslie Humphrey:** Hello. Thanks for making the county agenda and meetings available. I appreciate that Buncombe commissioners voiced rules stricter than the governor's and I feel we are safer and ahead of most communities in actions we can take to prevent the spread of covid-19.
The reason I am writing is to urge the commissioners to mandate the wearing of masks in public. Somehow we can make it a stylish and responsible, "Asheville cool" statement of solidarity and hope. I believe this will become a national trend, a requirement eventually, but let's go ahead and stay ahead of the slow-to-respond. Okay??? Thank you!!
Keep doing what's right, even if that's not popular. Create a web page where citizens can share their designs and photos of original masks.
- **Mike Tau, Arden, NC:** The Virus Shutdown does not pertain to construction work, evidently. But it should: near me is an unoccupied house that has daily six to eight workers all together constructing. The workers have lots of contact with each other.
The workers could give themselves and others the Virus is just one worker is infected; and the workers travel to and from work and get and go to the ATM and go to fast food. One infected worker can cause the Virus to spread.
Construction is not a necessity, I think, and the Virus Business Shutdown should pertain also to construction. (Perhaps construction by one lone worker could be allowed, as an exception.)
Please consider this to better ensure the safety of the County.
- **Jan Getz, Asheville, NC 28804:** I am in favor of the \$86,863 to the Buncombe County and Asheville City schools to cover OT for workers providing meals.
Thank you for your leadership during this most difficult time.
- **David Bradley, Leicester, NC:** Why have I not heard anything from my February 23, 2020 complaint about verbal abuse and property damage during January 2020 by county social workers? The acts were against an 84 year old lady suffering from anxiety disorder and dementia. The victim who lives in Asheville required medical attention due to panic attacks from the event and two entry doors were damaged. All county commissioners were alerted to the acts by the social workers. I have Power of Attorney for the victim.

- **Harris Wagner:** I endorse amending of \$86,863 of budget to cover workers at meal delivery sites.

The need for widespread testing should be more apparent now than ever before, our health director needs to get their head out of the sand. Just because there are 'only' 31 confirmed cases in Buncombe does not mean there are no cases. According to a study published recently through The University of Austin Texas the probability of Buncombe County having an epidemic **currently** is 99%. How can you sit idly by and hope that people are keeping distance enough? To not have widespread testing will cost people their lives under your gross negligence. Just because our federal gov't has been unwilling to act appropriately does not mean we have to follow suit. We have the resources locally and statewide to implement this. Please mobilize, the blood of innocent American lives will be on your hands.

The title of the study in question is *Probability of current COVID-19 outbreaks in all US counties* by Emily Javan, Dr. Spencer J. Fox, and Dr. Lauren Ancel Meyers.

This study was seen in the recent NYT article titled *Does My County Have an Epidemic? Estimates Show Hidden Transmission*.

Thank you for your time, please put into place widespread testing, it is the only way forward.

- **Unknown Citizen:** Yes, I'd like to leave a comment for the county meeting on the exemptions to the stay at home rule. I'm wondering how the County decides who gets an exemption to that stay at home rule. I talked to my boss and was informed that he got an exemption for his sign company, and I was told that although I'm in the high risk category and he knows that he can't keep the six foot rule at work, that we will be going back to work next week, so he can get his money from the government to pay our salary. It's nice to see that the county is watching out for his interest instead of ours. Thank you.