

**MINUTES OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'
BRIEFING OF MARCH 16, 2021 AT 3:00 P.M.**

BE IT REMEMBERED: That the Board of Commissioners met in regular session on March 16, 2021, in the Commission Chambers, 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville, North Carolina at 3 p.m. where and when the following business was transacted:

The Chairman called the meeting to order with the following members present:

Brownie Newman, Chairman
Jasmine Beach-Ferrara, Commissioner
Amanda Edwards, Commissioner
Robert Pressley, Commissioner
Parker Sloan, Commissioner
Terri Wells, Commissioner
Al Whitesides, Vice Chair

Staff present: Avril Pinder, County Manager; Sybil Tate, Assistant County Manager; Dakisha Wesley, Assistant County Manager; Rachael Nygaard, Strategic Partnerships Director; Lamar Joyner, Clerk to the Board; Michael Frue, Senior Staff Attorney;

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 3:06 p.m.

During the meeting, the Board and staff will review and discuss agenda items and receive staff updates with discussions as noted:

Staff Updates:

COVID-19/Vaccine Update. Stacie Saunders, Public Health Director, provided information on the status of the COVID-19 pandemic data and trends, vaccine prioritization rollout, and metric data (no category coded red). The pandemic is trending in a positive direction but following safety guidelines and getting the community vaccinated is important to continue the positive trends. Total vaccines administered to date is 83,380.

Rental Assistance Update. Phillip Hardin, Human & Health Services, updated the Board on the housing assistance resources available to people impacted by COVID-19. The combination of state and federal programs provide close to \$8 million of funding.

United for Youth Network. Rachael Nygaard, Strategic Partnerships Director, informed the Board that the United for Youth Network is a career partnership built on the foundational principle that equity and educational excellence are inseparable. The vision is for all children and youth to learn, grow and thrive in a vibrant, healthy and connected community.

Continuation of Capital Contract for Buncombe County Schools. Michael Frue, Senior Staff Attorney, explained that the contract will continue funding for school security projects that will not be completed in any one fiscal year. The resolution will be presented at the April 6, 2021 regular meeting.

Public Attendance at Commissioner Meetings. Avril Pinder, County Manager, delivered staff consideration of the process of allowing public attendance at Commissioner meetings. The Board had an open discussion and requested that the agenda item be added the next regular meeting on April 6, 2021 to continue the conversation and to determine the process.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:22 p.m.

LAMAR JOYNER, CLERK
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BROWNIE NEWMAN, CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS