

**MINUTES OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'
EMERGENCY MEETING OF AUGUST 18, 2021 AT 12 P.M.**

BE IT REMEMBERED: That the Board of Commissioners met in emergency session on August 18, 2021, in the Commission Chambers, 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville, North Carolina at 12 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; Sheriff Quentin Miller; Stacie Saunders, Public Health Director; Fletcher Tove, Preparedness & Security Officer Lamar Joyner, Clerk to the Board; Michael Frue, Senior Staff Attorney

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 12:06 p.m.

- **COVID Update**

Stacie Saunders, Public Health Director, provided information on the status of the COVID-19 pandemic data and trends, vaccination update, and metric data (1 category coded red). With the infection rate of COVID increasing and hospitalizations increasing as well, Saunders made a recommendation for a county-wide face covering requirement for all indoor public spaces, implementation of social distancing measures for all indoor public spaces, and continue to follow other CDC and Executive Order recommendations. Vaccinations continue to be performed by the County with walk-in availability. A third dose of the Moderna or Pfizer vaccines for immunocompromised individuals is being recommended by the CDC.

- **Declaration State of Emergency**

Michael Frue, Senior Staff Attorney, read the Declaration and highlighted the face covering sections. After the public comment session, the Commissioners, in response to increased effects of the COVID pandemic, expressed their views on the county-wide face covering and social distancing requirements for all indoor public spaces.

Public Comment

The following individuals spoke against the county-wide face covering requirement:

Thomas Kirchgasser	Resa Johnson	Holly Bittinger	Lynn Stone
Jamie Nix	Sherry Syence	Sherry Warner	Cathy Hubbell
Kay Olsen	Jessica Peatross	Charles Warner	Nina Roberti
Jan Black	Paul Benjamin	Don Yelton	Chris Tate
Steve Arpin	Gloria Michael	Jay Pfeil	
Maureen McDowell	TJ Martin	Christiana Dillingham	

The following individuals signed up for public comment but did not get to speak due to the session's one hour time limit:

Gary Alston	Martha Hubert	Teddy Woizeski	Bart Cox
Justin Wilson	T. Ehardt	Jessica Ferris	Jonny Stockwell
Doug Sweeny	Troy Brengle	Kimberly McCurdy	Timothy McCarthy
Jim Norconic	Elenca Bellagio	Paula Bishop	Maria Parrino
Sunshine Gurliacci	Sheldon Lieberman	Zach Brubaker	Craig Williams
Laurie Isher	Laurie Timmerman	Tamara Parker	

Vice Chair Whitesides moved to approve the Declaration State of Emergency as presented. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion and it passed 6-1. (NOES-Pressley)

Commissioner Beach-Ferrara moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed 7-0. The meeting was adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

LAMAR JOYNER, CLERK
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BROWNIE NEWMAN, CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS