



Richmond County Board of Supervisors

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For Immediate Release – March 26, 2020

RICHMOND COUNTY PRESS RELEASE IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19

Over the past several weeks, Richmond County has continuously monitored and reacted to the situations surrounding the COVID-19 Virus. We wanted to take this time to review some of the actions the County has made over the last few weeks to inform our citizens.

Effective 4:30 P.M. on Tuesday, March 17, 2020, Richmond County Declared a Local State of Emergency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The declaration of a local emergency allows the local government to operate in a more streamlined manner during certain events, to continue the business of the County during these times.

Along with the announcement of the Declaration of Local Emergency, it was decided that all County Offices would remain open and fully staffed, but would be closed to the public until further notice. County Staff is prepared to assist all citizens through electronic means during these times to ensure that any business someone has with the County, is given top priority.

The County's Emergency Service Department has been monitoring the spread of COVID-19, and is prepared to take the actions necessary to ensure the safety of Richmond County. Chief Mitch Paulette stated "The Richmond County Department of Emergency Services is taking all necessary precautions to make sure that our providers are safe and able to help the citizens of the County. We have initiated a once a week professional cleaning of our Emergency Services Facility to keep our providers safe, and we continue to clean and sanitize our response vehicles multiple times a day." Chief Paulette also stated that at current time, there are no known cases of COVID-19 within Richmond County, but expect that to change over the next few weeks as the virus does continue to creep into the more rural areas of Virginia.

Lee Sanders, Chairman of the Richmond County Board of Supervisors stated "The Board along with the Administration of the County and all of our Constitutional Officers, continue to do the necessary business of the County to provide everyday services that people rely on. We do continue to ask our Citizens to limit exposure as much as possible by remaining at home during these times.

We are in an uncertain environment with this virus, and the quicker we can defeat it, the faster our local businesses can resume to normal operations, and we can get back to life as we know it.”

County Administrator Morgan Quicke noted that this is a difficult time for many of our local business and urged support of these businesses during these times. “We are in a very strained economy for many of our locally owned small businesses, and they need all the support we can give them during these times. These businesses are what make Richmond County a great place to live and work, and we need them to be strong and prosper. There are many financial programs that are being released by the State Government and Federal Government at this time, and we are working to understand them better ourselves so that we may assist any local business that may need help putting together an application for funding.” Mr. Quicke went on to say “Many of our local volunteer and non-profit organizations are really stepping up during these times to help our local community, and for that we are thankful. Social Media has turned into a very useful platform to get messages out to the public on options available during these times.”

The Richmond County Board of Supervisors will conduct a Special Meeting on Monday, March 30, 2020 at 6:30 P.M. to discuss further actions needed during these difficult times. Although space is limited in the Public Meeting Room, the meeting is open to the Public and the County will adhere to the 10 person limit as outlined by the Governor. It is the intention of the Board to broadcast this event on Facebook Live so that any citizens that wish to observe may do so, without being physically present.

For any additional information, please contact the County Administrator’s Office at 804-333-3415 and make sure to follow the Richmond County Facebook Page for up to date notifications.

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