

Brevard County Board of County Commissioners

*2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Viera, FL 32940*



Minutes

Tuesday, June 30, 2020

1:30 PM

Special Meeting

Florida Room

I. **CALL TO ORDER 1:30 PM**III. **Discussion, Re: Mask Regulations for Brevard County**

Chair Lober stated there were some housekeeping matters to take care of before getting started; several emails that were sent in to staff with a request to read them into the record; he spoke with staff and what has been done is they have been given to the Clerk's Office to include with the minutes; there were some that were on both of the issues; and anyone that wants to see those, they will be included in the minutes. He further stated beyond that, the meeting that was scheduled for July 7th, which was supposed to be the first meeting back from the break, or will be if today is excluded; there is a lot on the agenda, so it sounds like it is going to be better to move that to 2 p.m. from 5 p.m. on the seventh unless someone has an objection; the Board will go ahead and do that and move the July 7th meeting to 2 p.m. since that is going to be a long one; he understands that there are a lot of folks there for the mask proposal, as a result, he believes there are people, as he understands from staff, wrapped around the building; and unless someone objects, and if some here does object, he is happy to extend the time for the folks that were not specifically invited by staff or one of the Commissioners, the Board is going to adhere to a strict two minute time limit, which is normally a three minute time limit, but in respect to everyone that otherwise would have to hang out outside and suffer in the 90+ degrees weather, he does not want to do that to anyone. He continued by restating that, with the exception of the folks that are invited by staff or a Commissioner, it will adhere to a two minute time limit; with that said, he mentioned he is wearing a mask today, it is not a fashion statement by any means, but what he did was pre-record the intro, at least his intro, for the mask regulation proposal and staff has that, so he is not sitting there basically hugging the microphone; and he is just going to ask staff to roll that audio and then move on to public comment, after the Board addresses any guests to the Commissioner. Staff played the following audio statement as recorded by Chair Lober:

"Governor DeSantis wants individual counties to make the decision on masking requirements because different counties have different needs. Pinellas County has over 327 times the population density of Liberty County. Masking may be absolutely necessary in one and pointless in the other. It is necessary here. Brevard County is facing a situation in which every major health system supports masking and some have expressed profound concern about their continued ability to maintain quality of care and to treat patients if their workers continue to fall ill, and as a consequence, are unable to report to work. If we do nothing, Brevard County may become Florida's first third-world County. A third-world County is a county in which timely access to quality medical care is uncertain. I find even the possibility extremely disturbing. Yesterday, while avoiding commentary on public policy, Health First President and CEO, Steve Johnson, advised me in pertinent part as follows, and he quoted 'following the CDC guidelines which include recommendations to wear masks in public, maintain social distancing, and regularly wash your hands, is the best way to protect the health of the community and our associates. Health First implemented a mandatory masking policy for everyone at all of our locations, both clinical and non-clinical, including our administrative offices. For example, I personally wear a mask at work. As a health care provider, it is our obligation to ensure our workforce remains healthy and available to care for our community.'

While I believe this conveys the crux of Mr. Johnson's comments, his full commentary is available should anyone wish to see it. In an email to a local mayor, Health First Senior Vice President and COO of health plans, Matthew Jarell, stated in pertinent part and he quoted 'what will help us however, is if everyone wears masks.' Jeffrey Stalnaker, Health First Chief Physician Executive, stated, in pertinent part 'Health First believes a universal masking policy will help slow the spread of this terrible virus and protect the health of your loved ones and neighbors. Wearing masks will also preserve our ability to treat patients who are ill and safeguard the health of our medical professionals on the front lines providing care. Our policy decision doesn't only impact Covid patients, it impacts anyone who shows up to the ER needing treatment.' Do you want to wait 12 hours to have a bone set or 18 hours to get a laceration

stitched? I certainly don't. Sure, heart attacks and strokes will be triaged and given priority, but the vast majority of patients will suffer. The bulk of folks who say this is unconstitutional have no formal legal training. Maybe they watched Law and Order or Night Court but there is a reason the practice of law is a regulated profession, because so many people's legal opinions are objectively incorrect as a matter of law. One can be an excellent IT professional but know very little about the legal system despite feeling an unjustified level of expertise. If any speakers wish to opine as to legal issues, please let the Commission know if you are licensed to practice law in the State of Florida, or we may simply assume you are not and your opinion may be weighed accordingly. I have yet to hear anyone who claims that the proposal is unconstitutional, specifically cite any portion of either our federal or our State's Constitution as the basis for their meritless claim. Not surprisingly, every challenge of which I am aware, seeking an injunction against a local government for implementing a universal masking requirement has failed to achieve so much as either an emergency injunction or a temporary restraining order. It has not been for a lack of lawsuits. The suits simply have no merit. If masks only protected the wearers, we would not be having this discussion. This has little to do with protecting the mask wearer, it's about protecting the community, most especially frontline hospital workers. So long as you're not behind the wheel, if you want to drink until you pass out or swim through sewage, that's your decision, as you are basically harming yourself. It's a perversion of the concept of freedom to think that you have a right to expose others to a profoundly elevated risk of harm, in this case an airborne pathogen, due to selfishness, ignorance, or a misguided interpretation of the concept of freedom. We tell folks they can't drive drunk because we don't want them harming others. We tell folks they have to keep their dogs leashed while outdoors so those dogs don't bite others or cause a car wreck running into the street. We tell folks they have to have car insurance so they don't cripple someone and have inadequate resources to pay for their treatment. We have child labor laws to protect children even if their parents would be okay with them working 80 hours per week while going to school. We require physicians and attorneys to be licensed to protect the public from the unscrupulous, as well as the misinformed and overly confident. Don't tell me it is your right to put an infant in a car without a properly installed car seat, it's not. You have no right to physically harm others without their consent. Anyone who claims it's their right to drive while intoxicated is simply wrong. So too, are those who claim they have the freedom to infect others is absolutely wrong. Government has broad police powers to protect its citizens including ensuring public health. All the more so during a local State of Emergency declared as a result of a pandemic in which there exists legitimate expert and professional concern that quality of medical care in the County may degrade substantially if nothing is done. I am confident our County Attorney, Ms. Bentley, was not awake at night out of fear of impending lawsuits as a result of the masking requirement. The overwhelming majority of folks who say that masks are ineffective at reducing the spread of COVID have no formal medical training. Maybe they watched Doogie Howser or Gray's Anatomy but there is a reason the practice of medicine is a regulated profession. One can be an excellent mechanic or real estate agent, but know very little about the medical system despite feeling an unjustified level of expertise. If any speakers wish to opine as to medical issues, please let the Commission know if you're licensed to practice medicine in the State of Florida or we may assume that you are not, and your opinion may be weighed accordingly. Also, if you're a physician, either a MD or DO, please let us know so that we may refer to you as Doctor. Every single hospital administrator and every single physician, both MD's and DO's, with whom I have communicated, have been in favor of face masks. All have agreed that masks reduce the spread, every single one. The majority of physician's assistants and nurse practitioners have been in favor of masking. I know of one in either category who appears less than fully supportive. There is a reason both the Florida Department of Health and the CDC recommend face coverings. It's not to make a fashion statement. Mass masking is critical in protecting essential workers, including hospital workers. Two months ago there was an article in the journal The Lancet which stated in pertinent part, and I quote 'Controlling harms it's source, (masking) is at least as important as

mitigation (hand-washing).’ The bottom line is that if we don’t act soon, we may well face a horrible situation which will require that we take even more drastic and extreme measures that are entirely avoidable if we act now. I don’t want to shut any businesses down. I don’t want to cancel outdoor events. I don’t want to turn tourists away. Help me avoid hurting the local economy in the coming weeks and months and help me protect local health care workers now. They put their health at risk for us and we need to step up for them and for our community. I’m proposing that we implement a masking requirement where all those entering businesses be required to cover their nostrils and mouth with a fabric barrier. Those eating, drinking, and exercising would be exempt, as would anyone who’s actively on supplemental oxygen. Anyone with a diagnosed medical condition precluding them from wearing a mask, for instance asthma or COPD, would be exempt. Clearly, if what is undergoing a dental or facial medical procedure, they wouldn’t be required to wear a face covering. The face covering would not have to be anything fancy. A piece of an old shirt would suffice. I’m also open to expending CARES Act funds as needed in obtaining masks for low-income residents as well as for those who were unable to source masks regardless of their income. Our sister County, Seminole County took this step yesterday. Let’s join them, nearby Daytona Beach, Eastern Florida State College, the Florida Institute of Technology, and an increasing number of local governments, and show that we have the courage to do what’s needed and what’s right.”

Chair Lober stated he knew there were many lined up and asked who was first; he knew there was one on the phone and then Maria Stahl and Edwin Loftin; he stated to go with Edwin Loftin from Parrish Medical; he heard some screaming in the background and instructed the deputies if anyone is preventing an individual from speaking or being disruptive, regardless of what they are or are not saying, to please escort them out; and he thought there were enough people there and they needed to be respectful of everyone that speaks.

Edwin Loftin, Senior Vice President of Integrated and Acute Care and the Chief Nursing Officer of Parrish Medical Center, stated he appreciated the opportunity to speak today on this important matter of public health; the COVID-19 pandemic is real; this virus is highly contagious and is deadly to those who are medically frail and elderly; and it was not, and is not, to be taken lightly. He continued to say Parrish Health Care Partners were swift to mobilize the COVID-19 response; as early as February of 2020, the early onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Parrish initiated the emergency management incident command structure which remains in full activation; they did not, and have not, relaxed their COVID-19 response focus; following closely to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations and the Florida Department of Health (FDOH), Parrish has implemented a number of safety protocols, all focusing on preventing and slowing the spread of the virus and especially protecting the health and safety of their fellow peer partners, employees, medical staff and volunteers, patients, and community served; and safety protocols which include, but are not limited to the adoption of the universal masking protocol, since April of 2020. He further stated everyone inside Parrish Health Care facilities, since April of 2020, has been required to wear a face mask; wearing a face mask in public, especially when social distancing is not possible, protects you and those around you; they know that COVID-19 can be spread by people who do not have symptoms and do not know they are infected, that is why it is important for everyone to wear cloth face coverings in public settings and to practice social distancing, staying at least six feet away from each other; and wearing a face mask or face covering during a global pandemic, when it can potentially save lives, is not an infringement of personal rights, but an act of love for one’s self and for fellow citizens.

Maria Stahl, FDOH, wanted to give an update; she sent the update to the Board on Saturday; currently there are 1,792 cases, and 77 that reported out today; she wanted to reiterated that these are people, if somebody tested twice, it will not get counted twice; and there have been

17 deaths in Brevard County, three of those deaths were from long-term care facilities. She continued to say the labs are reporting a nine percent positivity rate and overall there have been 43,865 labs at a four percent positivity rate, which has increased; if people recall, over the last month, month-and-a-half, the overall positivity rate was running about two percent and the daily positivity rate was about 0.5 percent to 1.5 percent; over the last week, the positivity rate has gone from 7.4 to 12.5 percent; the long-term facilities, which are continually monitored, there are 167 in the County, 63 of those facilities now have a case of COVID-19 amongst either the residents or the staff; and there are 12 residents and 34 staff that have tested positive. She further stated that hospital stats, as of today, include seven patients on a ventilator, 49 patients in the hospital, with 12 of those in ICU; to reflect on how that has increased, on June 24, there were 18 in the hospital and three on ventilators, which is almost doubled; if that course is continued, next week at this time there will be 10 or 11 on a ventilator and 80 in the hospital; the testing throughout the County that is being done at Eastern Florida State College (EFSC), Omni Health, Parrish, FDOH, and Health First, all are surging in their testing right now; and EFSC is doing about a thousand a day, FDOH, Parrish, and Health First are booked out through next week. She continued to say the testing for the month of June, the target was two percent, and FDOH has done 3.5 percent of Brevard's population this month, and seven percent overall, amongst all of the sites; all of the labs are backed up a little bit at this point; asymptomatic individuals being tested are waiting anywhere from seven to 10 days for their results; on June 20th, a public health advisory was reissued and updated by the State Surgeon General and in their public advisory it was stated all individuals should wear face coverings in settings where social distancing is not possible, with exceptions being children and those with medical conditions, reiterating any vulnerable populations and those over 65 should limit interactions outside the home, social gatherings should not be more than 50 people and maintain distances; there is a trend of the younger population testing positive, and in Brevard County the average age is between 20 and 40 years old; and some of those are asymptomatic and it is important to know that asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic can still spread the virus. She went on to say the average age in the ICU is 54 and the average age in bed surge is 58, which has gone down quite a bit; one of the biggest concerns right now is, even though the majority of the younger population are pulling out of this okay, but when they transmit it to the elderly and vulnerable population, there could be a surge in the hospitals in the next several weeks; FDOH is working with the hospitals and long-term care facilities; testing and contact-tracing continues with assistance from other departments within the Health Department and also contact-tracing staff from Tallahassee; and she mentioned Brevard is number 18 out of 67 counties with the number of cases, number 11 out of 67 with the number of tests done, and Statewide today there were 6,000 cases reported and a 14.5 percent positivity.

Chair Lober apologized to Ms. Stahl for not giving her a heads-up for questions and he asked, as far as the folks that are asymptomatic, who may still transmit, if she had an idea of the positivity rate, and was it the same as overall, or lower or higher.

Ms. Stahl replied she did not have that information with her, but she could say there are a lot more symptomatic patients.

Commissioner Isnardi stated she was looking at the FDOH site, Brevard County specifically, and she knows it showed 250 positive cases on June 26, and on 27 and 28, it shows 84 and 86, which is down by over half; now she is saying 77; she asked if Brevard was back on a downward trend; she further stated she knows that is wishful thinking but looking at the number

of people tested during those times, it shows a higher percentage; and she inquired if testing more people and more asymptomatic people, how is it an accurate number if an increase is not being seen.

Ms. Stahl responded it was way too early to determine a trend, and also it may have been a one-day spike of labs reporting; she thinks it needs to be looked at over a longer length of time to determine if it was a peak and now it is flattening; what she thinks is more important is looking at the positivity rate, which has also jumped up along with the testing; early on it was only symptomatic testing and it broadened as the strategy, nationally and Statewide, expanded; asymptomatic results are being picked up more but what percentage of asymptomatic and symptomatic she does not know; and she mentioned the positivity rates are increasing and the labs are increasing.

Commissioner Isnardi stated she had one more question and asked if she had any knowledge, based on looking at some reporting through the month of May, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) was lumping together antibody-positive tests with regular positives; and she asked if that was still being done in their data collection because she cannot find something that states that.

Ms. Stahl replied that nationally that is being done, Statewide it is being separated out; Statewide there is a separate antibody report and a separate regular report; and the point-in-time testing is getting reported on the regular cases.

Commissioner Pritchett asked Ms. Stahl when FDOH started including testing for the younger age people.

Ms. Stahl replied at the Health Department, they have been tested all along, and Medfast Urgent Care has been testing the younger population all along.

Commissioner Pritchett stated at one point, people could only get tested if they were in a certain category, and asked when it was opened up to include the younger people.

Ms. Stahl stated she was absolutely right, and she would say about a month ago; what was being found is the symptomatic people were dropping off so there was a capacity to increase, and that was done at that time; and she stated that FDOH and Medfast were the only ones doing the pediatrics, and that some Pediatric groups are testing in their private offices.

Chair Lober stated the last invitee, Dr. David Williams was on the line, calling in from Alaska.

Dr. Williams thanked the Board for the invitation; he stated he would like to put things in perspective; he is an emergency medicine physician, he was the Chairman of Emergency Medicine at Wuestoff Health Center for 10 years, he is also the EMS Director for the City of Cocoa, Rockledge, Titusville, and Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, his specialty is in emergency medicine and EMS services, and he is the President and Chief Medical Officer of Medfast Urgent Care Centers; he stated he was speaking to the Fire Department about the prospect of the Coronavirus precautions they were taking; on March 17, the Commissioners took a very thoughtful consideration of closing down businesses, encouraging social distancing, hand washing, and other measures to prevent the spread of the virus before the peak; and he thinks the Board and FDOH have done a fantastic job of keeping the positivity rate lower than the rest of the State. He continued to say during the peak, Brevard was about four percent and the State was about eight percent; then when the peak went away, Brevard began opening back up; (inaudible); over the past two weeks, an increase can be seen in Brevard County to eight or nine percent, where it is today; so what has happened is more testing, and an increased positivity rate; (inaudible); what is being seen on the ground, he can say that Medfast is currently seeing over 1,100 patients per day; (inaudible); the laboratories are running out of tests and the ability to test people in a timely fashion; (inaudible); now the test results are seven to 10 days out; what is happening is people are going back to work, then one person tests positive, then 10 of their friends and family members go in to get tested; and what has

happened is people stopped their isolation, started interacting more, opening the economy, which is all a good thing, because it needs to be done. He further stated that community practice measures, social distancing and isolation, works to decrease the spread of the virus; what is known about masks is the N95 mask protects medical workers from contracting the virus; procedure masks and other cloth masks prevent other people from contracting the virus; wearing a cloth mask is not necessarily going to protect a person if someone else is not wearing a mask and they have the virus; and the paradigm is everyone needs to be wearing some sort of face covering so it can be beneficial to everyone. He continued by saying that is the debate, why should people wear a mask if it does not protect them against another person; consideration of others is what has tried to be done and try to maintain that over the past four weeks, and there was still an increase; and the Board was very good at proactively decreasing the incidence of infection in Brevard County initially but businesses need to get opened back up, so, as a medical professional, he is recommending wearing a mask when social distancing of six feet is not possible.

Chair Lober expressed his thanks for calling in during his vacation, and he stated he really appreciated it; he stated there were a tremendous number of public comment cards, up to 59 now, so he will adhere pretty strictly to a two-minute time limit; if a person has not finished their sentence at the end of the two minutes, he will allow them to finish it; in the interest of time and getting people out of the heat, that could not be accommodated inside, he will really have to stick to that two minutes; and he will call it in the order in which folks signed up, and apologizes in advance if he mispronounces anyone's name.

The Board reached consensus to change the start time of the July 7, 2020, Regular Board meeting from 5:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jason Searles, Melbourne, stated he did not know where to begin since his time was shortened by one minute by no cause of his own; he stated why he was opposed to the face mask policy, first, the last gentleman that spoke about how face masks prevent germs and how Harris Corporation is doing; he actually picked up a face mask here and on the box it states it will not prevent the spread of viruses; he could take the mask and sneeze into it and his hand will be wet; and he is not a medical professional but he is college educated and he knows how to read. He continued to say the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website states that the mask should be comprised of thickly woven fabric, multiple layers deep, three or more should be needed to be somewhat effective; these masks and the ones everybody is wearing here, he guarantees do not meet those standards; he would say that the woman that was speaking that said there was 17 deaths and three from medical facilities, where is the legislation to prevent those in long-term facilities from contracting viruses; there has been no legislation or anything put in force by this Commission to protect the most vulnerable, instead it wants to make everybody conform to its policies; and he would say that its lack of legislation to educate the public is dumbfounding and that time would be better spent to inform the public, not come from the public. He further stated this is an infringement on people's rights; the Board does not tell him what shirt, or shoes to wear, why is it telling him that he must wear a mask, because it would protect people; sounds reasonable, but if people do the research, what the CDC says, and the masks that are being toted around this community are simply ineffective.

Giancarlo Mandato, Merritt Island, stated he wanted to explain the implication of government-mandated masks; he will go over a couple studies that mitigate and actually negate Chair Lober's stance saying they are good; first, according to the St. Luke's Life Sciences Institute Center and the University of Hawaii in 2008, it was found that the face masks used by health care workers have not been demonstrated to provide benefit in terms of cold

symptoms or getting colds and a larger study is needed to definitively establish non-inferiority of face mask use; second, the Canadian Medical Association, in 2016, concluded that random controlled trials and observational studies comparing N95 respirators and surgical masks have not shown any benefit and they may have been underpowered; and third, 2020 study done in China by the West China Hospital in Sichuan University on influenza effectiveness of N95 and surgical masks said that compared with surgical masks, it is not associated with a lower risk of laboratory-confirmed influenza, it suggests that N95 respirators should not be recommended for general public and non-high-risk medical staff, which is us, the general public, and yet the Board is trying to infringe on the public's rights and say that people have to wear what it wants people to wear. He continued to state multiple other studies conclude that masks are not significantly effective for the general public; further, the CDC has stated itself, the only way for masks to work is if they are closely fitted; like the gentleman before him stated, no one in here has them truly closely fitted, to have them closely fitted, people have to try to keep them closely fitted, which people have to touch their face to that; and then the CDC says if people touch their face, they are going to start spreading that virus other places as well. He further stated Chair Lober cannot assume and suppose that every single person in Brevard County will abide by the regulations of cleaning their mask every hour, their dirty T-shirt is going to be clean, he cannot assume that; further, the government, people should have the right to decide if they want to wear a mask just like someone should decide if they want to wear a mask; it is wrong for anybody, for example, say the government wanted to tell a Muslim woman with a hijab that what she is wearing incites violence based on Islamic terrorism, that is wrong; and Chair Lober says that what people are wearing incites physical harm and he thinks that should not be happening based on no proof.

Karen McCullough, Viera, stated she is a community ambassador with the Florida Freedom Keepers, a constitution-based civil liberties organization with a focus on medical freedom; it is her hope that the Board is actually going to consider the implication of what a mask mandate means to Brevard County and vote on the side of freedom; she has no issue with social distancing and people wearing masks if it is their choice; this is the greatest county in the world but it is great because of the freedoms; and once the Board mandates one medical decision, it has taken away a fundamental human right, the freedom of body autonomy. She continued to say if the Board serves the community in order to uphold the Constitution, then it cannot support a mask mandate in good conscience; the whole world has been turned upside-down for a virus with a 99 percent survival rate, and not to minimize the one percent, but there are many viruses that people come in contact with daily that people transmit, that pose health risks, and yet for this very survivable virus, the government is exercising control in ways that are threatening to the rights of the individual and the freedom that the military has fought for; it is also harmful to those with medical conditions that make wearing a mask an additional risk; and by making a mandate, that freedom of privacy is taken away. She further stated her medical conditions are hers and she should not have to share details with anyone in order to be allowed to get her groceries or to avoid fines or arrest; the country is already split on important issues that need addressing and does not need anything else to deepen this divide; to have to justify wearing a mask in order to shop or be in public is a HIPAA violation, but people ask and make judgmental and threatening comments; the law enforcement officers have important work to do in keeping the community safe; and their resources should not be wasted on a matter that ought to be personal choice. She continued by saying to all the pro-mask people, they are entitled to wear it, and she would not discourage or condemn them, but she asks when will it come off permanently; are people waiting for them to mix the very virus that people are trying to avoid, into a cocktail of neurotoxins and aborted fetal cells and inject it directly into people; a vaccine has never before been successful for a Coronavirus and vaccine safety and efficacy has been stated to need 10 to 15 years of research and development, and still labeled by the U.S. law as being unavoidably unsafe, yes, unsafe; and will people wear it indefinitely, and are they okay with exchanging it for a rushed vaccine.

Charles Weatherford, Port St. John, stated he stands there in opposition to this insanity and he has five reasons; he and many others question the effectiveness of masks; this is also an infringement of not only people's natural, but constitutional rights; he is not an attorney or a medical professional, but he can read and is pretty smart; Chair Lober had all the medical establishment here and gave them extra time, and cut the public's time down to two minutes, so he did not know if he could get to all this; and basically the effectiveness is very questionable and Chair Lober is giving medical advice. He continued by asking what does a Hippocratic Oath say, Hippocrates first, do no harm, do not harm; this is a sliding slippery slope to totalitarianism, and he asked if forced vaccinations are next and if Chair Lober was on the page with Mr. Gates who is also not a medical doctor, he is a computer geek who happened to get very rich; this is unfortunate symbolism, covering his mouth, being muzzled; abrogating his God-given right to free speech and to take in God's life, the heaven; and Genesis said God breathed life into dust, the Hindus believe in Prana, the Daoist and the Confucianism, Chi, it is all life force and Chair Lober wants to cut the life force off.

Michael Douglas, Melbourne, stated he was there on behalf of himself simply to let the Commissioners know that people are Americans and what that means is that people have rights; just barely ten years ago, people were in the position as Republicans, in a largely Republican County, arguing that the government should not impose a mandate on people as individuals because they exist; that mandate went to the Supreme Court and they upheld it; today people are here saying, well, it is local government, it has more authority; and he stated true, the Board does have in some cases, support of that proposition, but the same principle remains, what is the limiting principle. He went on to ask is it going to be tomorrow all must wear blue shirts, Thursday all must eat pepperoni pizza, Friday all eat pineapple pizza, where is the limiting principle; if he could prove the health benefits of it, is the Board ok with that; secondly, the Board has the effectiveness of the mask argument, and as pointed out, he is not a medical professional; so, while he will leave most of those arguments to others, he simply pointed out that people fart, what that means is when people fart, people smell it; if this virus particle is larger than a fart, people will smell it whether they are wearing a mask or not, and will catch the virus; and the third reason why he is opposed to the mask is very simple, the County has to deal with the enforcement aspect. He asked if the Board wants him to call 911 and say there is no one wearing a mask in a business; he does not think it should put law enforcement in this position; and let people remain free and deal with issues themselves and price the risk appropriately.

Ron Thomas, Cocoa Beach, stated this is not about health, get real, it is about control; the main stat people want to look at is the death rate, the morbidity rate is going down; the virus is running its natural course, the viral load is lower and now, as the virus runs through the lowest part of the population, which is 18 to 35, most of them are showing asymptomatic and a 90 percent decline in the death rate since April 21st; this is Commissioner Lober's personal move for control and to illustrate that, he tells people they can wear a cloth mask, which does nothing, so he is lying to people; and this is about fear and setting people up for the second so-called wave so people will accept this type of control. He further stated Chair Lober is a fear monger and he has brought in his professionals; CDC says it should be a recommendation, Governor Desantis says it should be a recommendation, but Commissioner Lober says people have to wear a face mask; and he stated he is against this and opposes it, and appeals to the honor of voters and the Commission that they reject this fear mongering on the part of our so-called Commissioner Lober who is not in this for the people, this is about him.

Anthony Johnson, Titusville, stated to first let him qualify his prepared statement by pointing out that he holds a degree in chemical science with a focus in microbiology from Florida State University and he has been thoroughly trained in aseptic techniques, which just means creating

an environment absent of germs, such as viruses like COVID-19; the problem being faced is that almost every disposable or cloth mask being used by the general public today is not N95 rated and therefore does not stop the transmission of viruses; viruses are extremely small and easily passed through the super majority of these face coverings as the package even clearly states this; the bottom line is that as if it is not an N95 surgical mask or respirator, then it will not be effective in stopping the spread of COVID-19, and N95 masks cannot be mandated because they are needed at hospitals and another shortage is not wanted; and now that it has been established that non-N95 rated face coverings do very little to prevent the COVID-19 transmission, he wants to talk about what they will do. He went on to say that in practically every municipality across the nation that has enacted mandatory mask laws, the crime rate has soared; this is because criminals are being allowed to openly hide their identity with a face covering and are emboldened to commit more crimes, sometimes in broad daylight, which he is sure many people have seen examples of in the news lately; in Brevard County there are more than 588,000 residents and there have been only 17 COVID-19 related deaths; this means that 99.99 percent of Brevard residents are alive and surviving in respect to COVID-19 and it is not a hot-spot; and N95 face coverings will not prevent the spread of COVID-19. He further stated the best course of action is to continue the status quo and allowing local businesses to implement their own mask mandates, which is perfectly acceptable, since businesses can make their own dress codes; he believes recommending businesses to implement face covering policies is acceptable by all Brevard citizens; he asked please do not create a mandate that will disenfranchise a large portion of the freedom-loving Brevard County population and will do little to prevent the transmission of COVID-19.

Russell Rosicki, Melbourne, stated he is a registered architect and a father of four girls, ages five and under, and owns two local businesses; he thinks masks should not be mandated, but does think people should take precautions to keep their own distance from one another, and if some still feel unsafe, then they should stay home; he and his wife worked alongside someone who had the virus in January, in close proximity for weeks, and neither of them became ill or were affected by it; he soon took an antibody test and it came back negative; and his own personal experience shows that the virus is not as communicable as some might think. He further stated he will not ask his children to wear a mask, nor will they go to school with one on; and, if possible, he recommends the Commission to put this out to a vote to the residents of the County and let them choose.

Nick Tomboulides, Cocoa, stated he wanted to comment very briefly on what Chair Lober said at the beginning of the speech, which was that only medical professionals and attorneys have the right to an opinion; he thinks that is sort of an affront to this very notion that people have of a republic as people are supposed to be a citizen-led government here in which the people are in charge and the people have a seat at the table and can weigh in on such issues; he frankly found that insulting and would also point out that one of the physician experts that were brought in to help him support this policy, actually said that masks should only be mandatory absent the ability to social distance, so he actually disagreed with the proposed policy, because the Board's policy is a blanket policy applying to all public spaces; the problem is, the Board is proposing mandatory face masks; when something is mandatory, that means there is a plan to punish those who do not comply; and he asked what the punishment will be, a fine, an arrest, or will people be sent to jail. He went on to say he can see it now, a grandmother goes to a grocery store to get her meds, maybe she left her mask at home, or perhaps she cannot breathe with a mask on; he asked is the Board going to tell that granny she has the right to remain silent, put her in handcuffs, haul her away to the County jail so she can spend the night around drug dealers and gang bangers; he does not think the Board has really thought this through; law enforcement has their hands full already and should be going after real bad guys, not patrolling the pudding isle at Winn-Dixie; and this idea is not only terrible but it is also illegal. He further stated the County Charter and Code gives the Board no authority to do this;

it violates the due process clause, the equal protection clause, and the privacy clause of the Florida Constitution; Ben Franklin stated a person who trades liberty for security deserves neither; Thomas Jefferson said he preferred dangerous freedom to peaceful slavery, a life without liberty confined to cages by petty leaders with our every behavior controlled, is no life at all, and for most of American history, people have understood that; and he stated to do the right thing, change required to recommend, keep granny out of the slammer, and let people be responsible for themselves.

Chair Lober stated he is trying his best not to respond to every individual, but he thinks if there is something factually misstated, that it may be worth pointing out; he never said that only attorneys and/or physicians have the right to an opinion; what he said was that, with an item that has profound questions involving legal or medical issues, that if someone is licensed to practice law or medicine, and there is a reason that licensure is required in the State, that a person may want to identify that, because otherwise, he has as much expertise as an architect in determining an issue that is unfamiliar to him or outside the scope of his profession; and that does not mean that person is not entitled to an opinion, it just means they are not entitled to practice in that area.

Susan Hammerling Hodgers, Melbourne, stated she is not a lawyer but she does love Law and Order; for consideration, she is a small business owner in the community and also a health care provider licensed with the Board of Medicine of Florida, and has had a medical license with the Board of Medicine since 2001; she practices in dermatology and she treats infectious diseases on regular basis for over 20 years; she has training, like Dr. Isnardi, in microbiology and pathophysiology; and she asks to mask or not to mask is the question. She continued by saying masks have become a divisive partisan symbol recently; she believes in the Constitution as a founding document and it was written as an enduring covenant; she believes the Constitution system must be preserved, uncompromised, for future generations; she supports individual rights, limited government, and free enterprise; and she stated it is her body and her choice, and if this mandate passes to include wearing masks at all times, she believes it is unconstitutional. She went on to say she does believe there are some recommendations and she has sent to Chair Lober and discussed with some of the other Commissioners some other solutions; she understands there are good intentions with this mandate with the masks, to protect the public; some people are scared to go outside, to businesses, or restaurants because they do not feel safe, and they want to continue with life, however, as a health care provider for 20 years, she does wear a mask when she sees patients and she has become sick infrequently; last year she had about 20 patients with leprosy and thank goodness she did not catch it; and there are different skin conditions and other medical conditions where a person can be asymptomatic. She further stated she spoke with the Commissioner earlier and people that are asymptomatic in her world in skin, a person could give a kiss, shake their hand, have sexual relations, and contract HIV, herpes simplex virus, or condyloma, which is an important fact; and in conclusion, this cannot be enforceable, what is the penalty, just enforce businesses who do come in contact with people, and she thinks the companies need to advertise upfront what their policy will be on masking.

Jane Tkach, Titusville, stated the world is watching the Country now more than ever, as it continues to reopen in ignorance and permit the virus to spread, and this is unacceptable; social distancing has been less possible as businesses reopen and try to act as if everything is normal again, and it is not normal; Florida had over 9,500 new cases in one day, just one day, and if this does not scream urgency, then she does not know what is; responsible local leaders will be reminding us every day that this thing is not over yet; and responsible local leaders would make the right decision for the public, even if it is not the popular one. She went on to say that masks are not foolproof but even a low-quality mask can block respiratory droplets; there is enough scientific evidence to prove that, combined with social distancing, proper hand

hygiene, widespread use of masks could dramatically reduce transmission of the virus; it is the responsibility of the County Commissioners to care for the community, and voting against a mask mandate today will only show a lack thereof; she stated mandate the masks, it is the absolute least thing the Board can do to protect people; and the masks are not about protecting one's self, but they are to protect others. She further stated a mandatory mask mandate would be the simplest solution to enhance the safety of the community; and masks may be uncomfortable and a slight inconvenience, but they are nothing in comparison to a ventilator.

Paul Ashworth, Titusville, stated he just wanted to reiterate a couple of things; this has to do with a couple of the studies that some people have cited, one being that the mask is not about protecting yourself, it is about protecting other people, and as far as whether or not that is legal or not, there are already laws that both protect ourselves and other people; when a person drives a car, they are legally obligated to wear a seatbelt, that is a law, legal, that requires people to protect themselves, but people are also not allowed to text and drive, which protects people, but also protects the others on the road because if a person is distracted and driving, they are not just endangering themselves, but every other person on the road whether it is a pedestrian or a cyclist; that is why a mask mandate is legal, and it can be seen that widespread mask use can slow the spread of the virus; and globally, looking at some of the other countries that have had complete mask mandates, they do have slower spread of the virus. He went on to say that public health is a justifiable use of the police powers, as has been shown over and over again in various Supreme Court precedents; and he wants to support the Board if it chooses to vote for the mask mandate.

Raimonda Mandato, Merritt Island, stated first and foremost, she is a person and a voice, and is not a lawyer or a doctor but the Board should be there to support a voice and not those of a lawyer or doctor, so the previous statement Chair Lober made is not what the people voted him for, and how dare him look down on the people; she almost felt offended and she does not support forcing people to wear masks because there is no significant proof to show the mask will protect her from any virus; she actually believes that by wearing a mask and maintaining quarantine, it will lower people's immune system and make them more susceptible to actually get it; let us instead encourage people to build up the immune system by taking good care with natural food so that the body will be able to fight it on its own; and according to the journal Nature Medicine, researchers at the Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity, in Melbourne, Australia, it shows that even though COVID-19 is caused by a new virus, in an otherwise healthy person, a robust immune response across different cell types was associated with clinical recovery similar to what can be seen in influenza. She continued by saying the cure is not masks and distance and mandating it, but gaining robust immunity through living normal and healthy lives.

Laura Mahoney, Malabar, stated the opening by Chair Lober about not having a law degree was offensive as liberty is supposed to be protected without having a law degree; she stated Chair Lober was elected to protect the County's liberties; forced medical procedures have no place in a free society; Chair Lober is afraid and this should not be a reason to make any mandate; Chair Lober's decision would or could open up to all kinds of lawsuits as is happening in Hillsborough County presently because they have made a mandate like this; and people know there have been many deaths due to wearing of masks, even though the media fails to report these disturbing tragedies. She further stated from the very beginning of the COVID-19, there has been a major difference between factual information and the stories that have been told to the public by government and public officials; Neil Ferguson, of the Imperial College of London and who Dr. Fauci got some of his information from, predicted that tens of millions of people would die due to COVID-19 infection; COVID-19 was compared to the Spanish flu which killed approximately 50 million people in 1918; as of June 25th, total deaths worldwide from COVID-19 had reached 494,000, not tens of millions, and even this number is questionable;

this time Ferguson was off not by thousands or hundreds of thousands, but by millions; and the average age of death was 80. She continued to say the virus has had little effect on young and healthy people; she got a lot of this information from Dr. Pam Popper and Dr. Russell Blaylock, a neurosurgeon; the reality is that most of the cases have been diagnosed because more people are showing up for health care services because they were not allowed to; and she has been to all the hospitals throughout the County and there are empty parking lots because people have put off getting help, and now are being tested.

Suzy Schrack, Cocoa, stated she is a caretaker for her 90 year old dad who has lived with her for almost two years; he does not want to wear a mask and he is in his perfectly right mind; he almost came today but at 90, she convinced him to stay home; she was there to respectfully ask that the Board does not mandate wearing masks in this County; personally, it make her feel ill to breathe and re-breathe her own carbon dioxide through a mask; and she has observed many folks frequently repositioning their masks, which she also saw Chair Lober do on the screen, which transfers germs between their masks and their hands. She went on to say she respects all those who wear a mask but she asks that she is allowed the freedom to not wear one and her dad, who has gone to Publix and Aldi with her, does not want to wear a mask, so she would not be able to take him to the store anymore; and she respectfully asks that the Board protect people's freedoms to be able to freely breathe and be able to get groceries without wearing a mask.

Ashlee Moore, Cocoa, stated she is a military wife and her husband just retired last year from serving 20 years in the Navy; they have lived all over the world and chose Brevard to be their forever-ish home; she loves living here, the County is beautiful, and the freedom that it offers; they have 3 beautiful daughters and the middle daughter has sensory processing disorder and she struggles with material; and she does not know what the policy is for children, but just imagining her trying to put on a mask or wear one is absolutely absurd. She went on to say she read it was age two or three, which she is well beyond; recently at the grocery store, she felt that they were personally harassed by other customers for not wearing a mask, but the store does not mandate masks, and the dirty looks and the feeling that she gets, she should not have to tell everyone about her daughter's condition that she does not have a medical not for; she just does not do well with senses and her senses are heightened; she knows many people that have many different medical things that they do not want to share, and she does not think they should have to; and she knows that wearing a mask feels very restrictive and she feels light-headed after wearing it for a long time, so she does not want to be out and about wearing one; and if a store wants to mandate that, she will support that by not going to that store.

Chair Lober stated she mentioned something that may be a question for other folks as well; what he is proposing, there would be an exception built in so if someone has a diagnosed medical issue that precludes them from wearing masks, he would not seek to impose that on

anyone that would have a medical issue as a result of it; her daughter, for instance, is not someone he would contemplate having to wear one; and he just wanted to put that out there for her and anyone else that may wonder.

Danyle Shea, Melbourne, stated she was not planning to speak today but she thinks the point from the previous speaker was that people do not feel the need to have to explain their medical conditions or give their personal history to anyone; besides that, there were a lot of more eloquent people than her that spoke against having a mandatory mask policy and she wanted to bring up something that people really have not mentioned yet; people are panicking over the Coronavirus but what is not being seen is that there are over 30 million cases of the flu this year and there is a 45 percent effective rate, that is with the vaccine; the Coronavirus is not

even close to that and people are panicking and trying to enforce these things on people and taking their liberties away and make them reveal things, like medical conditions, that they do not want to reveal; and she asked the Commissioners to consider personal choices, and she has no issue with people that want to wear a mask, as she feels that is their personal choice. She went on to say she feels like she is intelligent enough to take care of herself, her children, and her family, and wants to put her faith in her God-given immune system and what her grandmother told her for years, to wash her hands, do not touch your face, and cough or sneeze into your sleeve; she is afraid that people are getting so comfortable with masks that they quit doing all those things, putting faith in the mask that it will protect them, which has been proven is not the case.

John Dacko, Titusville, stated he is a licensed health care provider and currently employed as a frontline worker; fundamentally, he is against wearing masks, but if it is going to stop the spread of the virus, then he is for the mandate; he is seeing more and more of the frontline providers becoming infected with this virus, and becoming infected with the virus is doing a couple of different things; number one, it is causing people to be quarantined for two weeks, and not only that but also provides two negative test before they can return to work; and being a valuable commodity to the County, this puts the County at risk of not having enough health care providers on the front line. He continued to say secondly, it keeps him away from his family, as his family is more important than work, and putting them through the quarantine and not being able to see them is something he does not want to put them through; and he trusts that the Board will do their due diligence and look through the numbers and the statistics, and do what is right for Brevard County.

Denisse Gable, Titusville, thanked the Board for listening to the citizens of Brevard County, she has lived here for 13 years and she loves this County; she stated she wants to see it thrive, so she was here to ask that the Board vote against the mask mandate; she is not against people wearing masks, but she is against removing the right to choose; she is concerned about why people are so focused on the infection rate if the death rate continues to drop; and she asked is there concern about how many new cases are among people who are wearing masks and practicing social distancing, and are the unintended consequences from a mask mandate being factored in. She further stated people have never lived in a world without sickness or risks and people were not stripped of the personal freedoms in order to try to control the natural cycles of viruses; her health is not and has never been the County's responsibility and it is unreasonable to try to force that responsibility onto anyone; if people are willing to give up liberties because they are afraid of a virus with a death rate that is plummeting, despite a rising infection rate, people have to question whether they ever really believed in liberty at all; if people's rights do not matter now, then when were they important; and this is not the terrifying health crisis people are being told it is, fear is what is actually hurting the community. She went on to say it is time to stand up against the overreach and instead focus on promoting individual responsibilities and basic hygiene, which has been proven very effective.

Angela Hasebe, Cocoa, stated she lives in Brevard County with her husband and five children and she wanted to share her perspective on mask mandates; she has two conditions that would make it difficult for her to wear a mask, the combination of these conditions and a mask puts her in fight or flight response and she cannot think clearly with a mask on; requiring masks would make it easier for others to publicly shame her or otherwise not allow her into a business to be able to take care of her family; she has seen the effect of public shaming and violent attacks on those who cannot wear masks; and she implores the Board to make this a request and not a mandate. She further stated she has a husband and five children who live with her and her children are all school-aged and she feels requiring them to wear masks will cause them anxiety; Children and adults need to see facial expression to be able to learn about how to feel themselves; a smile goes a long way to help a child who needs reassuring; she knows

for her personally, the isolation she feels since the pandemic has brought on a level of depression and worry, as the worry is not of the virus, it is that people are cut off from each other as a society, not able to even see a warm smile at the grocery store from a cashier or passerby; for some, wearing a mask creates social detachment, rapid heartbeat, rapid breathing, and fight-or flight response; and she understands wearing a mask will bring comfort to some, but as a society, she is requesting freedom of choice regarding masks. She went on to say sometimes the decision should not be made by the majority, but rather to protect the minority who will be adversely affected by the mandates; and she stated to please vote no to mask mandates.

Matt Nye, Melbourne, stated people are repeatedly told to trust the science and to follow the guidelines from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and other authorities, but he asked which of the guidance issued by these authorities should be followed; he asked should people follow the guidance issued back in February when Dr. Fauci said the general public did not need masks at all, or follow the guidance of the World Health Organization (WHO), who up until recently, had the following statement posted in the mask Q and A on its website, and he read "At the present time, the widespread use of masks everywhere is not supported by scientific evidence"; both have now reversed course, but none of the facts or physics specific to the virus or the masks have changed; the virus has not changed in size and the physics of what masks do and do not block has not changed either; and evidence appears to show there is no discernable difference in the spread of the disease when one compares the data from the four countries that did not shut down or mandate social distancing, with data from all of the other countries that did. He further stated the CDC has admitted to mixing active diagnostic testing data with antibody testing data, leading Dr. Burks to state in early May, "There is nothing from the CDC I can trust"; the CDC has also stated if one dies with COVID-19, it was because of COVID-19, and as many doctors, coroners, and people with common sense have pointed out, that simply is not true; the WHO promoted models claiming the mortality rate of COVID-19 was between three and one-half percent and five percent but the actual mortality rate appears to be closer to one or one and one-half percent and continues to decline as more testing is done; after all, if half of those that have the disease are asymptomatic, as people are told, that means the mortality rate is overstated by orders of magnitude; while many clamor to point out the alleged potential dangers posed by not wearing a mask, few seem to give any thought to the actual harm done by this fear-mongering and the forced closure of businesses; and there are very real health consequences to destroying businesses and people, financially, substance abuse, child abuse, spousal abuse, hunger, anxiety, depression, and suicides, all of which are on the rise as a direct result of government action in response to this virus.

Richard Richmond, Melbourne, thanked the Commission as he knows it is a tough situation here in the County; he is a business owner of 25 years in downtown Melbourne, a 35-year resident, and a former adjunct faculty member at the Community College; he totally supports masks and wanted to be quite clear why; he started following this on January 7th, when it first came out of Wuhan what the situation was with this particular virus; and it was very clear to him that this was not the flu or anything even close to the flu. He continued to say he is married to a woman that is native Taiwanese and they have seen more serious flus and epidemics than are seen here in the United States; wearing a mask in many Asian countries is not an uncommon procedure and they do it to ameliorate the condition of spreading the disease; he showed a mask and stated they were N95 that he bought on January 16th for \$1.98, the wholesale cost was about 70 cents if bought in quantities of a million or more; now, due to the economic situation of demand, they are probably up to about \$3 even if buying them by the million; and he would note that it is going to have tremendous effect on the economy if the Board does not implement mask usage. He further stated downtown Melbourne is empty, not for any other reason than fear and lack of confidence; if the County cannot get quality masks into the hands of the citizens, this disease will be here for many years; this is not a situation

where a vaccine is coming any time soon, he can assure that it is not; the County needs to get ahead of the situation now or the economic impact will be devastating; and as of yesterday, 48 percent of Americans do not have jobs, and people are going to be in an economic situation that is untenable.

Mike Weiss, Rockledge, stated just to qualify, he is not a doctor or lawyer, and he does not watch Doogie Howser or ever seen an episode of Law and Order, and hopes he is still qualified to speak today, as he does however have an MBA and considers himself to be reasonably intelligent; he remembers the press conference when Dr. Fauci said that there would be millions of people dying in the parking lot of hospitals that were overcrowded and they would be gasping for air because there were not enough ventilators; that was the information people were going on before the County was shut down; the gentleman before him said if we do not have masks, there is going to be a tremendous economic impact and he would put to the Board that the world was shut down, it took 30 days, and the damage is done; and his wife is losing her job tomorrow because of COVID-19, and there are far bigger problems in this Country than making everyone wear masks. He further stated that everyone has talked about the science, or the lack thereof, and if the Board wants him to wear a mask to make others feel good, or to instill confidence, or because of something that might happen, he is sorry but the government lost his vote on that when they scared the living crap out of him and his family, saying that people were all going to die from this thing; people are not dying, the mortality rates are going down; and this is the CDC, not him, he is not a doctor. He went on to say as more testing is done, it was found out that the curve was flattening, which was the point, right; the County did not want to overcrowd the hospitals, and it did not, now the curve is flattened, get people out there so people's natural immunity can take over; no one said they were going to keep people from getting the virus, or eliminate the virus, it was said they were trying to flatten the curve of the virus; hospitals are empty, so this does not need to be done; and if people lived in New York City or some other place where the hospitals were overrun, maybe, but this is Brevard County.

Peter Carnesale, Melbourne, stated he is a retired military person in the Army, his expertise was in emergency management, and basically he was the senior logistician during 9-11 at ground zero; he has a good idea of what happens when one inhales things that they should not; it has been highly publicized that the Board would be looking at the possibility of requiring face masks to be worn by the people as they are in a public environment and cannot social distance properly; if he understands that properly, that would mean that everyone would be required to wear a face covering at all times when in stores, restaurants when not actually seated or eating, and all supermarkets, etcetera, and would include all employees of those establishments as well. He further stated the Board may remember that he wrote an email to the Board back on May 3rd and voiced his opinion on opening of restrictions too soon; he believes due to the fears, not as much due to the spread, by those that have some kind of

other thing wrong with them, that basically the masks should be required; and it has absolutely nothing to do with the protection of the individual wearing it, it has to do with the protection of people that are in contact with the person wearing it.

Eva Scillia, Satellite Beach, stated two years ago, her husband, two children, and mom moved to Satellite Beach from New Jersey; her mom's name is also Eva, she is 73 and was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis 30 years ago, and ever since her dad died, she has been her caretaker; every single day she fears she will catch COVID-19 from someone who is likely not showing symptoms and there will be no one to feed, change, bathe, or even listen to a game show with her mom; more than that, she feels one of them will unknowingly bring home COVID-19 and kill her mother; and she has avoided public places, made contingency plans, and gotten weekly tests herself, but this is not enough to prevent the spread. She went on to say the idea of unknowingly contracting COVID-19 and killing her mom, is now an unacceptable reality; she

knows her mom is an extreme case, but all people know and probably love someone that is compromised by age, illness, or something unknown and unseen; many people do not want to wear masks or face coverings and people do not want to force them; she knows face coverings are itchy, sometimes it is annoying to wear them in the heat, they fog up people's glass, and she knows they cost money, 38 cents on Amazon as of yesterday; and her mom's life is worth more than an itchy nose, a hot face, and 38 cents, as are the lives of the people in this community worth more than the mild inconvenience of covering one's nose and mouth while they shop. She continued to say she would do anything to avoid spreading COVID-19 to someone else, and she hopes this community would be willing to accept a mild inconvenience to avoid this too; it is up to the Board, the leadership, to mandate masks in public places that could reduce the spread of COVID-19 and save lives; she recently heard a quote that made sense in this context, "The greatest leader is not necessarily the one who does the greatest things, they are the one that gets the people to do the greatest things"; the people need the leaders to lead and get the community behind the idea of accepting a mild inconvenience for the sake of others; and this would be the greatest thing it could do for use of its position right now and for the greatest thing people could do for each other right now while keeping the economy operating and preventing people from losing jobs.

Bob White, Melbourne, stated he is not sure what he is more offended by, the Chairman's opening statement or the fact that the five of them are not sitting right there with the rest of them, where they ought to be; he also finds it offensive when someone tells him that they are just listening to the experts; let him suggest to the Board that there have been experts on both sides of this issue from the very beginning, and the experts that Chair Lober has been choosing to listen to are the experts that validate his fears, and the experts that support his contention in his position that as a government official, apparently thinks that he has the authority over, and the right to contradict the rights of the individual citizens; he also finds that offensive; and he was going to just talk about the numbers and try to put some proper perspective on them, so he stated he will just go through that. He went on to say Brevard County tests to date 42,468, positive cases 1,631, that is a 3.8 percent positive, Florida's positive is twice that at 7.5 percent, Brevard deaths 17, divided by the 1,631 positive cases, which is a mortality rate of just 1.04 percent, Florida deaths 3,505 divided by the 152,434 positive cases, are twice that at 2.3 percent, and in Miami-Dade the 953 deaths divided by their 33,700 cases is even higher at 2.8 percent; on Sunday Miami-Dade County accounted for more than 25 percent of the new cases that were being reported Statewide, just one county, and of the 29 deaths that were reported on Sunday, 17 or 58.6 percent, were from just two counties, Miami-Dade and Palm Beach; and comparing Brevard County to Miami-Dade, Brevard has 602,000 people, 1,631 cases, and 17 deaths, and Miami-Dade has 4.6 times the population at 2,744,808, 20 times the cases.

Courtney Barker, City of Satellite Beach, stated she wanted to share what the City Council of Satellite Beach did last night, they felt the city was too small to do a mask mandate and that it needed to happen on a County level, but they also realized it was a very difficult thing to do with enforcement; they wanted to provide the Board with some options and she sent that as an email last night; some of those options could be, instead of a full-scale mandate, to send out notices to businesses asking them to require a mask on their own, and also doing a public education campaign, and she understands the Emergency Operation Center (EOC) is doing a kind of a campaign right now, which is really good in their opinion, also asking businesses to post on the door their mask policies so members of the public will understand that and chose whether or not to go into those businesses; those are some of the options that were in the email and also the mask mandates could be limited to essential businesses like grocery stores and pharmacies, and those are some of the stepped options that the Satellite Beach Council wanted to convey to the Board, understanding that the mask mandate is a very difficult thing to do, but they feel that masks are important; and they agree with Chair Lober as every medical

professional that they have spoken with has advised to wear a mask. She further stated Satellite Beach agrees with that practice and will be educating the public as much as they can; and they understand the difficulty of the mandate itself and wanted to provide the Board with some of those options.

Martha Smith, Cocoa, stated she had a question before she said what she was going to say and asked as far as the response to the lady with the daughter that had sensory issues, and the Board would not mandate a mask on someone like her, she asked if that meant that anybody that has those issues does not have to wear a mask, and if people would be questioned, or allowed to go to stores, because if someone has an issue, it feels like an invasion of privacy if someone was stopped and asked why they were not wearing a mask; and she asked if Chair Lober had an answer for that.

Chair Lober stated he did but it would take up her time and if she was ok with that, she would lose the time, but he would be happy to respond.

Ms. Smith asked if there was a way to find the answer later on.

Chair Lober stated if she would like to speak with him after, she is welcome to, just as she did before the meeting.

Ms. Smith stated she wanted to speak on a personal level, she did the research, read the articles, saw both sides, and she ended up to a conclusion that she was not going to wear a mask; she chooses not to, her family chooses not to, and the bottom line is because that is her choice; she has been there, done that, and she grew up overseas in countries where it was not her choice and she was not allowed to go where she wanted, to wear what she wanted depending on where she wanted to go; the difference for her now is that she is in America, she is an American, and her husband fought for these freedoms and for the right for her to make a choice; and whether someone chooses to wear a mask, that is great, she does not have a problem with that, just like a person should not have a problem with her, or her family choosing not to. She went on to say, her husband fought for these rights, and she chooses to stand, have a voice, and fight with him; and because of that she is asking the Board not to make a mandate for masks.

Debbie Rich, Melbourne, stated she was very disappointed that the Commissioners were not in the same room with the speakers; up front, she wanted to say that she does not wear a mask out in public, when she is required to, she does wear a mask; when she goes to Quest every two weeks for bloodwork she is required to wear one, so she does, when she goes to see her doctor in Clearwater, she is not required to wear a mask, at her vet she is not required to wear a mask; she does not think the Board should mandate masks, it should be up to the individual or the business owners; she is a small business owner and she sells a lot of sniper hospital-grade disinfectant right now as it does kill the COVID-19, and she is selling it across the County; and if people would disinfect their facilities, whether it is their personal vehicle, homes, business, she thinks people would be in a better situation all around and she also thinks that if people would look at their vitamin D levels and their own immunity systems, that people would do better. She went on to say that Scotland and several countries overseas are very adamant about people taking vitamin D every day; her immune system is great as she is succeeding at the fight of cancer; and she does not think that masks need to be mandated.

Patricia Love, Satellite Beach, stated she just wanted to say that she is opposed to wearing masks as she has some breathing issues, and it makes her feel claustrophobic; she does not go anywhere where she has to wear a mask; she feels like she is 79 years old and in her twilight years, and should not have to be a prisoner in her house; she had a prepared comment

but she knew she would not have time to get through them and a lot of the things have already been said, so she will cut to the chase; and she said people have been led down the primrose path by the CDC, and the CDC is funded by all these major liberal donors, the Gates, Soros, and Warren Buffet, and she thinks they have an agenda to take down Donald Trump.

Sherry Hotton, Palm Bay, stated she was there to remind the Board, who is not here up in front of everyone, which should be, obviously, afraid to address the commenters, that it works for the people, the people elected the Board members into office, not to take away people's civil liberties; all of the people have their own civil liberties, God-given protective rights, and the Board has no authority whatsoever to implement any kind of mandate on her; and she commented she is an individual, her body, her rights, and the Board should keep that in mind because if the Board votes and makes it happen, oh boy, oh boy, that is all she can say.

Mary Starr, Palm Bay, stated first of all, what the Board is doing is called a plandemic, it is scamdemic; and no one should have to wear a mask as it is one's body, one's choice.

David Neuman, Melbourne, thanked the Board for allowing people to speak and hopefully listening to them as their concerns are very important; he has been elected before as a policy maker, and understands the position the Board is in, and knows that it wants to help people out and hopefully by listening to everyone, it will be able to do that; as the Board may know, Governor Desantis actually called this community a leader on this issue, which is fantastic; he thinks those things that have been done, as well as things that people have done on their level; Brevard residents are strong, smart, and they can be trusted; and he believes this comes down to an issue of trust. He went on to say there have been over 500 engagements on some posts that he has put together and time, after time, after time, the residents are asking to just let them do what they can do; people are going to wear masks when they feel it is appropriate, and not when they are in the safety of their own homes, parks, and places like that; people want to be trusted by their government and he assures the Board that the people here do not think that a mask mandate is needed and he believes that all the people at the chambers and outside would actually be more than happy to help the Board find ways to help the community when it comes to this; people will help sanitize parks, sanitize seats, they will do whatever it takes so that people can keep those liberties but while at the same time having the freedom to make that choice; and outside of that, he would just recommend that the Board empower the people as opposed to making a mandate. He further stated the Board can support those that are for face masks, wonderful businesses in downtown Melbourne, that have a sign asking to wear a face mask when people come in; the County can help provide those masks for individuals, or something else through the CARES funding that it has; if the Board could support those who are against the masks, give them some opportunities, give them some education on ways that they could get out in the community and do what the County is looking for them to do, they would be happy to do that as well; and again, it is a matter of trust, please trust the people, they are here to make Melbourne a great place and want to continue to lead on this issue and hope that the Board will allow them to do that.

Pam Dirschka, Titusville, stated she is a volunteer with Mutual Aid Brevard, and in that role she often gets groceries for those in need that cannot wait for a grocery delivery or pick up; she always wears a mask, but sees that the majority do not; the mask she wears can protect her a little, but it is primarily for those around her; this weekend she heard a story on National Public Radio (NPR) about clusters that had popped up in the State of Washington and the Director of Health there said that contact tracing led back to a party of 100-150 people in early June where there were 14 cases and another 15 cases were associated to it; then the Director was asked about protests and rallies, which she said there was a rally in Bellingham which is the county seat, and there was also a protest and they were unable to connect a single case to that rally or protest, and what they are finding is it is in large part due to the use of masks; and

everyone at the rally was wearing a mask and it is really a testament to how effective the masks are in the prevention of the spread of this disease. She went on to say this weekend, on the Sunday morning shows, former Food and Drug Association (FDA) Scott Gottlieb in the Trump administration, and a republican, said hopefully attitudes around simple but impactful interventions like mask wearing and general social distancing are starting to make a change, and he was referring to Texas; Senate leader Mitch McConnell said people must have no stigma, none, about wearing masks when leaving their homes and coming near other people, wearing simple face coverings is not about protecting ourselves, it is about protecting everyone we encounter; and the rate in this area has gone up and people need to bring it back down.

Kim Orbeck, West Melbourne, stated she is a retired registered nurse and her opinion is based on working in the medical field for 35-plus years, listening to experts in the field, and more importantly, just a little common sense as her daddy always said she had lots of that; when the national emergency was declared in March, she and her husband took it very seriously, and she thinks some of the people they knew might have thought they were a little bit crazy, but they believe if people do not live with them that they must practice social distancing, it does not matter if it is your grandchild, and she would love to hug and kiss her grandchild right now, but she cannot do that; some people argue that they do not want a mask mandate because government should not have that much control and that has been heard a lot today; all she can think about is that seatbelts are a mandated control about saving yourself, so why is everyone so against wearing a mask to protect other people; and she thinks people should all be able to go out in public and feel protected. She continued to say that she listens to the news and knows that at least one of the Board does not agree with the mask mandate and the Board members will never all agree on the subject, but she has to ask if the Board is going to protect the residents of Brevard County or wait until there are numbers like Orange County before taking action; too many people are not adhering to social distancing and mask guidelines issued by the CDC; these people are infecting or worse, killing people they care about as well as strangers; she believes a mandate would not only be positive to keep the residents safe, but also good for the economy; and she would love to go out to stores if people were wearing masks, and she is sure others would too. She further implored the Board to make the right decision for Brevard and adopt the mandatory mask policy.

Merry Hays, Palm Bay, stated she is following her sister, so she is also a registered nurse and over the weekend she asked her grandchildren, ages 13 and 11, to draw her a picture of what they felt like is going on right now in their perspective; she was told to be a superhero, one does not wear a cape, one wears a mask, because when people are out in public, one can only control what one does, they cannot control what someone else does; if people respect each other, then they would take the time to put a mask on, just to cover up; in the military system, the highest honor one can get is to be awarded a purple heart, and that is given because one risks their life in order to save someone else's; and she is not asking people to risk their life to save someone else, she is simply asking people to be considerate of others in their space, and their right to be in the store, pharmacy, wherever, and cover their face and mouth if they physically can, as there are exceptions to every rule. She further asked that as people go through this and have different opinions, to please, please, consider the fact that if each person decided to do it because it was the right thing to do, the Board would not be needing to ask for a mandate.

Karalyn Woulas, Cocoa Beach, stated she is a city Commissioner in Cocoa Beach and her opinions are her own and not of Cocoa Beach as of yet, their emergency meeting is tonight; she is against the mandatory mask requirement, and as a city Commissioner she sees that it would be very difficult to enforce, it is confusing, as she can see the confusion that would happen with the residents and visitors; as a city Commissioner, she does not want to expend the police force's precious time and money on the face masks when they have to deal with the

crime and violence due to other big issues that the County is dealing with today and in these uncertain times to maintain law and order; on another note, masks can cause several unhealthy side effects such as dermatitis, change in skin pigmentation, itchy rashes, sores on the nose and behind the ears, hives, and breathlessness; some negative side effects of prolonged wearing of a face mask can vary from headaches to increased airway resistance, carbon dioxide accumulation, hypoxia, all the way to life-threatening serious complications; and the N95 masks are supposedly the most effective filters, and these actually limit breathing to a greater degree, causing more headaches and health issues and it has been shown to reduce blood oxygenation by 20 percent, which can lead to people passing out, passing out behind the wheel as they are driving, can reduce natural immunity, and also cause lung infections, especially in elderly people. She further stated she has asthma and breathing issues and when she has to wear a mask for work, it really affects her; she knows Chair Lober said he would put in provisions for these conditions but she does not want to go around explaining to people she has asthma, so she cannot wear a mask; she just wanted to say that just because other counties and states are doing this, does not mean Brevard County has to follow suit; and she asks that the choice be left up to the people, they are smart enough to figure it out.

Adrienne Anderson, Melbourne, stated she has three small children and is a small business owner, so she has a vested interest; in this particular County, she is not a doctor or lawyer but she is working on a master's degree at Florida Tech so she did find it a bit insulting, as others have said, on some of the things Chair Lober stated earlier over the speaker because she is literate enough to read medical journals and she can comprehend them, so she thinks that along with everything else that has been said, kind of fits in there; she has collected data in regards to this topic exclusively from Florida Health COVID-19.gov website and the US Census Bureau, so she thinks all can agree on those numbers; she pulled numbers earlier today before coming, and the total cases tested and confirmed in Brevard County were 1,016 including non-residents, and the population of Brevard, according to the Census Bureau is 601,942; and she did the math on that, making the percentage of positive cases versus the population, 0.285 percent as of Florida Health information on the government website today, which is very low. She further stated the total deaths in Brevard, which she thinks all can agree, were 17; if one does the math on that, it is literally less than one percent deaths; she does not want to trivialize those deaths by writing them off because death can be very trying, sad, and emotional, but she does not think people want their actions to be out of emotion; people want to take their actions out of facts, and if people look at the facts and numbers, Brevard is very low, and as others

have stated, people know masks do not work; if the mask on her face is not working for her, it is not helping anyone else around her either; and she is against the mandate, and as a constituent, she hopes the Board realizes there will be ramifications if it puts a mandate in place.

Stephanie Anderson, Indian Harbor Beach, asked the Board if it ever noticed sunlight as it filters through a window and the dust particles and things can be seen, and one thinks they do not even want to breathe right now; that is what the air around people always looks like, people just cannot see it and when people are wearing a face mask, even though the large drops might be covered, it is not stopping the breath from coming out and the breath has particles in it and if someone has an illness, those particles are going to be there and it is going to come through the mask and around the mask; respiratory pathogens share similar transmission mechanisms, aerosol, droplet, and fomite, and as people know, now that it is the 21st century, germs are microscopic; when people wear a mask, a lot of times that mask is like keeping mosquitoes out with a fence; and in her opinion, masks are useless whether they are worn for oneself or others. She further stated she is not a doctor, and does not have to be to know how wrong all the doctors have been while they have been talking about the pandemic; she believes the fear has hurt people more than the virus; when people are wearing a mask, they are

touching their face, and will get COVID-19 only if they have been in contact with COVID-19, and people know that touching their face is the worst way to make people sick; if the Board is going to ask her to wear a mask for other people, she asked what about touching her mask, as doctors have training on how to put a mask on and take it off, the protocol is so that people are not contaminating themselves; and she stated not to make her sick by making her wear a mask. She continued to say maybe it will not be COVID-19, maybe it would be a flu or something worse, but forcing people to wear a mask and touching their face all the time, and wearing something that is wet and yucky is going to make people sick; and she asked who is going to be responsible for that.

Josh Fields, Palm Bay, stated he was a member of and on behalf of, the Libertarian Party of Brevard County; he stands in opposition to the motion to compel the use of face masks; to be clear, their opposition to the mandate does imply the personal protective equipment (PPE) is ineffective, for this virus does not warrant a measure of precaution; he said PPE instead of mask because this also has ocular transmission; he chooses to wear a mask on his own accord, as do many citizens of Brevard; and he understands people on all sides of this debate can have good faith objections, and does not think anyone there lacks empathy or compassion for their fellow citizens. He further stated the question becomes what role do people ask the government to take in this pandemic; many states and counties have decided to compel citizens to wear masks with an array of civil and criminal penalties; these places are also being challenged in court, as the grounds of these measures are unconstitutional; he is certain that if this ordinance passes, the Commission will be engaged in a legal battle; and Commissioners are elected to their respective positions with the primary role of safeguarding the Constitution, upon which an oath all of them took. He went to say it is important to consider that many people view the acceptable role of government to include the prohibition of actions that are harmful to others, not that the government as an entity can compel action; this is an important distinction; just because an action may seem reasonable, or supported by the majority, does not make that action just; he believes people should attempt to wear PPE, however, he does not believe it ever should be at the capacity of the State to compel these actions, however, the Libertarian Party respects private entities and businesses to be able to exercise their rights and set their own standards of mission on to their property; and as a citizen, visiting these places is a voluntary choice, to compel others to act on someone's behalf is not a community, it is a prison and the State becomes the warden.

Anita Unrath, Melbourne, stated she would like to applaud Mr. Abbate for the County policy that the County staff has to wear masks, as that just makes good sense; she would like to tell the few people that are left, and the Commissioners, that she had COVID-19, and she had not heard anyone else there say that; her husband had it after her and he had a much worse case, as he was sick for two and one-half weeks, and she only had it for one week; COVID-19 is not the flu, and is not like anything she has ever had before, and is a serious illness; and she hopes the event today will not be a super spreader event because half the people in the chambers are not wearing masks. She continued to say her husband says he wears a mask because he wants to be a leader, as he is a retired Air Force chaplain, active duty for 22 years; the Air Force sent them to Brevard County in 2002 and this is their forever home and they love Brevard County; she asks why in Seminole, Orange, Hillsborough, and Pinellas County and the City of Jacksonville, those leaders have required masks; she heard a couple of people threatening the Board today and she thinks that is horrible because she does not think they should be threatening the Board if it chooses to do the right thing and require people to wear masks in public places in Brevard; and she and her husband went for a ride the other day and went over to the National Merritt Island refuge and saw many people on the causeway, not at all social distancing and no masks. She further stated the Board is the leader, and needs to make the decision; she was a teacher for 30 years and made the decisions in her classroom;

and she would appreciate it if there was a mask policy for the safety of all in Brevard because she does not want anyone to have to go through this disease.

Kimberly King, Indialantic, stated so many people have made great points about the masks violating people's civil rights and she agrees with that; she is completely against the whole mask thing; people have gone through how ineffective they are and also people that do not want to go outside and take any risk, do not have to; it is so easy to get absolutely everything delivered to a home; and people need to take responsibility for themselves, not ask other people to limit their lives for them; she thinks the biggest thing that has not been addressed, it has come up a little bit, but it is fear; this whole COVID-19 has been fear-driven from the very beginning, as people talk about numbers that have been so over inflated. She continued to say people know that the death rate is maybe one percent, even with its inflation and the fear, in and of itself, is the biggest problem; there are 75 million kids not going to school because they are afraid and there are businesses that cannot open; and the effect of that is increased domestic abuse, attempted suicides, and drug overdoses; she has friends that work in the ER and the ER goes hours without anyone coming in, and she knows people that drive ambulances, and the calls are not for COVID-19, they are for domestic abuse, attempted suicide, and drug overdose, due to depression and having no thought about what can be had in the future, as Brevard remains shut down because people choose fear, fear, false evidence appearing real; and COVID-19 does not have the statistics to shut anything down or to demand masks, it is just an infringement on people's rights.

Krishna Tewatia, Merritt Island, stated he was there to talk about why he believes that the Board should mandate masks; first of all, people have to talk about what their liberties are and personally, he sees that liberties as Americans, is the ability to exercise their rights to do things; people cannot do that if they are dead, and cannot do that if the economy is at a standstill; people must remember that in order to have individual freedoms, everyone has to keep everyone else safe, for example, people are not losing their liberty and not losing their liberty when asking people to wear masks because, if you think about it, there are times in American history where people have lost their liberty, during the Civil War, President Lincoln suspended habeas corpus, during World War II, there was war rationing, yet those accentuated people's freedoms later on; and fighting those battles is the reason why he can enjoy those freedoms today. He further stated people should talk about why the masks work, as they do not work to protect individuals, they protect other people if worn; the main risk of COVID-19 is that if a person is carrying it and does not have symptoms, that person can still spread it to someone else, and that is the main purpose of the mask; the reason that DUI's are legislated is because while one should not be a harm to themselves, it is more important that one is not a harm to others, especially if someone dies, they do not have freedoms anyway; if the economy goes into a standstill, none of these people would be able to come out here; and talking about people's freedoms, there is no way that this could be a slippery slope. He went on to ask what is going to happen if people wear masks, nothing is going to happen if people have to wear a mask, it is a simple freedom; if the Brevard County Commission was actually trying to do something, of course, people would be there to fight it if there was actual tyranny; and here he stands in firm affirmation with Chair Lober because he agrees that for the safety and liberty of the people, he must mandate wearing masks.

Jacob Gelman, Melbourne, stated the conversation today surrounding a governmental intervention to regulate mask-wearing in public comes down to one key consideration, the function of the State; this consideration is most often leveraged as an argument of values; it is asked, how could people regulate agents of free will, people must not allow themselves to become sheep; the underlying premise being the tenants of a libertarian framework for governance; and this framework argues that the role of government is the protection of liberties and in this protection it states only justification for existence is the implementation of his own

rights. He continued to say if this is to be true, one may ask how a government can require him to wear a mask; these are some of the most common arguments against the Board's own implementation of regulation, however cannot the creator of libertarian thinking also argue that the bright line for such considerations of creating law is not preventing someone else's action that may impede on his own ability to act as a free agent; so even in one of the most conservative interpretations of governance, there still exists the moral imperative of the State to act when conditions allow for it; all evidence points to an increased risk for him if he walks in a room full of those without a mask; and even if he had chosen to reduce his chances of infection, the actions of those around him may further compromise the state of his own health. He further stated Texas A and M University found that over the course of a month, mask-wearing in Italy saved 78,000 lives and 66,000 in New York City; this is about more than an individualistic interpretation of acting morally, this is about a collective push to protect the rights of those around us and because of this, any argument about the overreach of the government becomes mute because someone else wearing a mask might actually impede on his own rights; he asked if seat belts or drunk driving laws are an overreach, and did public indecency laws lead to a dystopian state of government; the answer to all of these is no, without any type of regulation for face masks, the Board is reopening the economy for those who cannot afford to miss work, to risk their lives because of its idea of individual responsibility is flawed and ineffective; and the Board supports and enables a society which deems disabled lives as disposable for the freedom of those who find a violent use for their own privilege as some standard for living. He went on to say for a Commission built up of people who supposedly fight against political correctness, voting against this is the most politically correct thing it could do; the Board is intelligent enough to know the fallacies of its own arguments, yet will surely vote against this because it fears an upcoming election while there are people fearing for their lives; grow up, the Board asked to be leaders, now it should act like one and do what is best for the country, not what is best for the upcoming election cycle.

Dwight Seigler, Mims, thanked the Board for the meeting but said it was hard when he cannot see who he is talking to, as he would like to look at his County Commissioner opponents in the face as he likes to shoot from the hip; it seems like the meeting is all one-sided and sounds like Chair Lober is the only one wanting this mandatory mask requirement; people cannot see or hear the other Commissioners and it is strange and seems like the Board is afraid to face the people; instead of trying to have a mandatory mask requirement, he asked what happens at the next big July fourth holiday and all the surrounding counties have shut down their beaches and everybody decides to come to Brevard County because the Board is afraid to make a decision to shut down the beaches; the Board members should make the right decisions if they want to be Commissioners and lead and stop following Governor Desantis.

Sanjay Patel, Satellite Beach, stated that hell has not frozen over, as he is in agreement with Chair Lober and stands in support of the mandatory mask order for Brevard County for public health and safety reasons; a few days ago on Saturday, Florida had its highest daily number of Coronavirus cases with 9,585 cases, and the very next day it had another 8,530, in fact Florida's cases have gone up fivefold in just two weeks; on Sunday, June 21, there were 850 cases in Brevard County, today there are 1,793, double in nine days and Brevard gained 1,300 cases in one month; it is abundantly clear that Florida is having serious issues containing the spread of the virus; the CDC and WHO have made scientifically-based recommendations that include wearing face covers; and many countries and states that have successfully lowered their cases and flattened their curves, have also used the same measures which include requiring masks. He continued to say the Florida Medical Association, which represents 25,000 physicians, has come out in favor of mandatory mask requirements; Dr. Ronald Giffler, president of the Florida Medical Association, said his group encourages local officials to adopt regulations requiring individuals to wear face coverings in public places; Dr. Giffler stated "the science is clear, asymptomatic individuals can release infectious aerosol particles while

breathing and speaking, not wearing a mask or face covering increases exposure, whereas universal masking greatly reduces the spread of viral particles"; the message is clear, for the sake of one's health and the health of everyone around, Florida's doctors want people to wear a mask; and people need the elected officials to listen to the medical experts and scientists, and mandate a mask order in Brevard County to protect the health and safety of every resident in the community, so please do the right thing and protect the lives of the residents.

Angela Perdue, Cocoa, stated she sent an email to the Board and is reading that email but she also added some things in it; there are many reasons why this mandate is wrong and should not be put in place, aside from the obvious privacy and constitutional issues, a mandate of this kind will segregate a large portion of the population; those with anxiety, claustrophobia, those who are hard of hearing and those who have issues speaking, among other things are being told by this mandate that they are not as important as everyone else; the science on the issue of masks is all over the place, very undecided, and most people do not wear them correctly nor do they wear the correct kind to prevent the spread of the disease; this mandate is almost impossible to uphold without breaking other laws; and she asked how the Board plans on enforcing this and she asked why give our police departments more to do when they are already criticized by the public at every turn. She continued to say this would require people to carry papers with them, similar to Nazi Germany or current-day England where people have to carry papers with them; our society needs to move on from this virus and the constant scare tactics of the media and the politicians that are hurting more than this virus ever will; she personally knows many people who are suffering from depression and she has friends who have lost loved ones to suicide as a result; overnight people's jobs were taken away and they were told they were not essential, which is ironic because they still have to pay bills and put food on the table; and she would argue that her job is essential if only to her husband and children. She went on to say she will not allow her children to wear a mask, enough has been asked of the children this year and she will not be adding an extra restriction; Florida is a miserable place to be in the summer and adding an extra layer of a mask is just asking for heat-related problems; we the people, only, should be voting on something that affects people's lives personally, not County officials; there is a difference between freedoms and liberties and tyranny does not always come in the front door announced; yes, the world is watching and

those in communist countries are trying to warn us, as Americans must continue to be a light of freedom throughout the world and a haven to those who are oppressed; and she asked the Board to please vote against this.

Daniel Willemin, Satellite Beach, stated he does not often agree with Chair Lober, but he totally agrees with him on this, and he wanted to get that out of the way; he has heard a lot of fake news about how masks do not work; he does not want to be there, as he is high risk, and wearing a N95 mask around a lot of people not wearing masks, and he is a little scared to be there, but he has stuff to say; there is a lot of fake news going around about how masks do not work, well, somebody forgot to tell Japan that, because they all wore their masks and nipped this thing in the bud, like that; America's enemies are watching this right now and he guarantees that they are taking notes, thinking they do not have to invade, or have planes and bombs, they just have to deploy a bio-weapon; and he guarantees, half of the people will go to their graves, wandering around in public with no PPE, talking about their rights, while the other half goes to their graves begging the first half to stop spreading it. He continued by reading from a 1905 SCOTUS case, *Jacobson Vs Massachusetts*, The liberty secured by the Constitution of the United States does not import an absolute right in each person to be at all times, and in all circumstances, wholly freed from restraint, nor is it an element in such Liberty, that one person or a minority of persons, residing in any community and enjoying the benefits of its local government, should have power to dominate the majority when supported in their

action by the authority of the State". He went on to say people have been over all this before, back in the 1900's when there was a Spanish Flu pandemic; there was a mask mandate, and all these arguments have been gone over before; it is time for the Board to do the right thing for Brevard County or he guarantees people will remember each and every one of the Board's names when it comes time to vote.

Karen Melin, Melbourne, stated she is a private citizen and was offended that the Board was not in the room with her, and offended that, if she was not willing to talk, that she would have to stand in the lobby listening to everyone talking and having conversations, trying to overhear the speakers, and she is offended that the Board is in an isolated area with the Committee, while she is sure they are all socially distanced from each other, but chose to keep the masks on their faces so that she can only hear maybe one out of four words that they have said; that being said, she stated the government has done a great job at scaring people to death about COVID-19, it borderlines on fear-mongering; she is not saying it is just Brevard County, she is saying the government; she, as an American, and all of the other Americans that have the choice, have the right to decide what they are going to do with the information they have received, and they are going to do whatever that is; and she personally chooses not to wear a mask. She continued to say she does not see what going to the beach, smelling the fresh salt water and sunlight has to do with anything that is going to cause her to get Coronavirus; she is sure the Coronavirus will not live in the salt water; she is just very frustrated and insulted when people try to fear monger or insult her in the store to her face because she decided not to wear a mask; she did not sneeze on them, cough on them, or touch them, she even went the right way in the aisles so she was not facing anyone; and she just wanted that to be said and thanked the Board for listening.

Janis Gregory, Cocoa, stated she realizes this has become a hot topic issue and now has health outcome consequences, but it has unfortunately become a political issue; taking politics out of the issue, she will talk economics; all people want businesses to succeed, as she does, however that is only going to happen if people can reduce the number of COVID-19 cases, that can only be done if people follow common-sense rules and wear a mask in public, trace contacts, and do social distancing; look at New York City and other countries and how they have reduced their cases; the status quo is not working, as a mandate to wear a mask in public would not be necessary if people would do the sensible thing, but they are not, therefore, unfortunately, a policy is required; and she wants people, and older people like her, to feel comfortable in going back to businesses. She further stated if she gets COVID-19, she is likely to die, which may not matter to a lot of people, but it matters to her and her family; she has heard it said that shopping is an option and she kind of agrees, but businesses cannot survive by delivery alone, so people need to make others feels comfortable going back to businesses, which requires masks; and she also finds it interesting that the microphone is being wiped down every time someone comes up without a mask, but yet it will not be wiped down because she is wearing a mask, and she finds that telling.

Pam Seaton, Merritt Island, stated she did not really intend to speak; she stated her mask is uncomfortable, she admits, but she is a retired nurse, and she has spent her life taking care of other people and looking out for them; if a surgeon walked into an operating room without a mask, the patient would freak out, wanting to see a mask on the doctor's face; it does protect and she has lived her life knowing that masks do protect, they protect health care workers and patients; and she does not wear it for herself, she wears it for others, her neighbors, and everyone in the room who does not have the courtesy to wear one for her. She went on to say it is a matter of taking care of each other, so please pass it; people need leadership; and she is looking to the Commissioners to provide the leadership people need to have.

Jennifer Johnston, Palm Bay, stated she trusts the Board is hearing what people are saying,

because since it is in another room, which she points out for people who are watching, it does seem the Board cannot hear the applause going on; there is evidence on both sides, as she thinks people can all agree that one could find two sides to any topic out there in this information-age society; all viruses die, and this one has already become less deadly; she asked where is the H1N1 virus, it ran its course, just as this virus will and has already done; and the spike is not about death, as during quarantine, people focused on death numbers, now people are focusing on infected number. She further stated even if people focus on the numbers, the flu shot has a very similar death rate, not to give people another reason to fear, but it is true that if a person gets the flu shot, they have a chance of dying from the flu shot; she does not support masks because this is very difficult for people who read lips, have an accent, and many other conditions as well; many have used seat belts as an example and she would like to point out that seat belts do not protect other people, which is the argument that is being used; freedom is not about forcing people based on one's opinions; and she asked that the Board remember the people, because it is the people that the government is founded on. She went on to say she hopes the Board can hear the applause in the room and outside, because it does not seem like they can; she thinks this is one other problem with masks and distance, people are losing the personal and public camaraderie that makes America great; and she hopes the Board listens to all of these comments.

Mary Smith, Cocoa, stated the Bible tells people that their life is a vapor, it appears for a little time, then vanishes away; all people will die, but do not know when, and the important question is do they know where they are going; she is a Brevard citizen and is not against people wearing masks, whether they choose to or not; she completely agrees with the speakers before her who have opposed this; and she has a neighbor who tested positive for COVID-19, an older gentleman, who had felt fine for two days and then went back to be tested again and it was negative. She went on to ask how citizens really know what is right and what is not; she asked to please take into consideration people's personal rights to choose if they want to wear a mask or not, and to vote no; and she does not take lightly those who have lost their lives, but thinks a lot of things are being blown out of proportion.

Chair Lober called the names of speakers that did not appear when their names were called earlier and none showed up; he deferred to the Commission on whether they want to recess for five minutes or go into discussing the comments and the proposal; and he asked how the Board wanted to handle it.

Commissioner Tobia stated if the Board was going to discuss a proposal, there was not one in the packet and he is not against a five or ten minute break; and he asked if Chair Lober could, if he planned on making a motion, tell the Board what a mandatory mask ordinance would entail.

Chair Lober stated if the Board was alright with it, it would take a ten minute break and then try to power through it; he stated with respect to the next item, there are not as many comments, less than one-third the number of comments, so the next item is going to go a little bit quicker; he will do everything he can to get those folks addressed quickly and he thinks he will bump up the time back to three minutes, unless the Board wants to keep it at two minutes, and after a short discussion it was decided to keep it at two minutes.

The Board recessed at 3:02 p.m. and reconvened at 3:12 p.m.

III. Discussion, Re: Mask Regulations for Brevard County Continued

Chair Lober stated he has some comments with respect to some of the public comments that

were made, that he is going to hold in the interest of time, with so many people there; he does think a lot of inaccuracy was contained but he does not know that it is necessary to get into that at this point; with respect to Commissioner Tobia's request to articulate what he is proposing, essentially, he is not looking to do it in a criminal fashion where someone would be subject to sixty days in jail, as he thinks that is perhaps a bit heavy-handed and unnecessary; what he would like to see is an ordinance as opposed to an emergency order, where the first offense would be just a written warning and then the second and subsequent offense would be some type of a civil citation; and he does not think it needs much in the way of a fine, even a \$50 fine would be significant enough to disincentivize people from violating it. He stated a first offense gets a written warning, because the County would need some way of actually tracking that there was a first offense, followed by a second and subsequent receiving some fine; he does not necessarily have a huge stake in \$50, if the Board wanted to make it \$40 or \$100, he is flexible; as to the specifics as to what would and would not be included, generally speaking, masks would have to be worn inside businesses, with the exception if a person is eating, drinking, or exercising; in a place of worship, although he thinks it is a great idea to wear a mask, he would leave it up to those individual places of worship to determine their own policy, as he knows they have been exempted from some other things at the State level; and it would not apply to anyone with a diagnosed health condition that is incompatible with wearing masks. He went on to say it would not apply to firefighters or EMT's to the extent that it would be incompatible or that it would interfere with their duties; it also would not apply to anyone undergoing a facial medical or dental procedure; it would not apply outdoors, only indoor businesses; it would exclude children under the age of six and he is flexible on the other end of the scale, as he thinks over age 75 may want to be excluded as well; and this is not a specific limitation, but the idea would be that the Board ask Code Enforcement to assist with enforcing in any municipalities or areas where local law enforcement requests that assistance. If there is a city or even a section within unincorporated Brevard, where there is a shortage of officers, or there is concern expressed, he would ask Code Enforcement to help out in those limited circumstances, with respect to enforcement; he would contemplate all the municipalities being included unless they specifically vote to opt out, which they would have to do at their own meetings; this is a general synopsis of what he is looking for; the two options available for how to accomplish this are either an emergency order, or an ordinance; an emergency order requires less votes to accomplish but the problem is the enforcement option is relatively severe in that it is treated as a second-degree misdemeanor where a person would face up to 60 days in jail as well as a fine, and he thinks that is excessive; he would much rather the ordinance route, where the first time is a warning, the second time a civil citation with a small monetary fine, so that the Board is not putting people in jail, even in theory, over not wearing a mask or not wearing a mask where they are supposed to; and he is happy to chat more about it but in the interest of time, he know there is much left.

Commissioner Tobia had a couple questions and stated he appreciated code enforcement helping out local law enforcement; and he asked if Chair Lober has spoken with the Sheriff's office, and if this was something they could do with the current manpower.

Chair Lober stated he would hesitate to speak for the Sheriff as to whether he would approve, disapprove, or remain neutral as to this; and he said he did not know that it was his place to do that, and has not had a formal conversation with the Sheriff about this, so he cannot do that, unfortunately.

Commissioner Tobia stated he had another one that Chair Lober could probably handle as an attorney; Eden Bentley, County Attorney, had provided the Board with an exhaustive list of municipalities and counties that have gone forth with these type of ordinances and some of them were interesting in the cause of action that was created, one of them he believes from Monroe County, a cause of action could be created with the business if the ordinance went

through; and he asked Chair Lober if he could explain what liability would the businesses have when it came to this ordinance in terms of business.

Chair Lober stated the onus for what he is proposing would be on the individual that has to wear the mask, not on the businesses to enforce or not enforce it; he can say the Board has heard from folks that, quite frankly, from what he can tell, seem to view every possible regulation as illegal or a violation of freedom or civil rights or liberties; there are plenty of restrictions that exist, and he has not used the seat belt comparison, he knows that was pointed out and struck down almost as a straw man argument; speed limits exist to protect others, dog leash laws, child labor laws, contractor licensing requirements, car insurance, you cannot run around nude in public, to protect others; and people cannot get drunk and drive, and it is generally not to protect the individual that is drunk behind the wheel, it is to protect everyone else. He stated there are plenty of laws that exist to protect others.

Commissioner Tobia stated maybe his question was off, and he is not arguing with that analogy, but if he ran around naked in a store, there is no cause of action for that business for the other patrons, whereas some of the ordinances that have been written, there is a cause of action for that business; and it has nothing to do with speeding laws, he is just concerned about having businesses act as police enforcement, but also they have some sort of liability and the Monroe County case example did happen and should this go forward, he wants to make sure that is not encumbered within the proposal again, as he has not had the opportunity to see it.

Chair Lober remarked that is a valid concern and it certainly is an interesting one; what he can say is he cannot categorically say that no one will be sued as a result; the fact is, anyone can sue anyone else for anything; Iran just put out an arrest warrant for Donald Trump, but he does not think Donald Trump is up at night over that, he would not be concerned, but if he wanted to visit Tehran, he might want to be concerned; the bottom line is, does he think that someone may sue the County, of course; and does he think it is going to be a meritorious suit, he has not seen any arguments that have advanced to the point where they have been ruled as holding any water.

Commissioner Tobia stated he is sorry, he was not inferring that someone would be suing Brevard County; he thinks Attorney Bentley is very competent in her ability to defend the County; he is more concerned with the business that would be liable should that happen; he asked if Chair Lober could walk through the steps, as an attorney; and for a business owner, what rights would they have, absent of any action of this Commission, to preclude people from coming into their business without a mask.

Chair Lober replied an individual business is free to impose the requirement that they want; he would say, as a fallback, if this does not go through as contemplated, he would ask that, at a dead minimum, that the Board ask the local businesses to require it; certainly the essential businesses like grocery stores, drug stores, doctor and dental offices, places where people have a much harder time avoiding; he does not want to opine as to what creative cause of action someone might file against a local business, but he has not seen or heard of anything that appears to be meritorious, simply because a business exists in which there is a mask mandate implemented by the local municipality or the County government; and he has not seen that at this point.

Commissioner Pritchett stated she does not think she will support this but wanted to explain why; first, she thinks it is really good that Chair Lober brought this to the public attention because she thinks people should wear masks in high-capacity areas, as it does protect a person if it is worn; she had a friend that had a kidney transplant and wore a mask for months, because the doctor did not want him to get infected, so it does do something; she asked

Commissioner Isnardi to jump in anytime if she says something that is a bit off, as she trusts her opinion; when first getting into this, it was talked about flattening the curve, so curves were expected, and honestly, at the beginning of June, there was the launch, Memorial Day parties, graduations, and in the middle of June there were the civil right protest, and she fully expected to see the curves go up; she reached out to the medical community and asked if the County was getting overwhelmed, or any problems, and they said no, everything was fine; and she asked Commissioner Isnardi if she is seeing an upswing or problems as far as medical treatment or anything.

Commissioner Isnardi replied absolutely none, and in fact, she talked to Steve Johnson, Health First President, over the last few days and he had said that not only is he not seeing a big spike in employees testing positive, which are frontline people that see sick people all the time, not just for the medical group, but for the Health First system, he is not short on employees and not concerned about overwhelming the health system; and that was the discussion she had with him yesterday, and he was pretty clear on that, and he is not concerned as far as not being able to handle it if there is another upswing or increase in hospitalization.

Commissioner Pritchett stated Commissioner Isnardi kind of confirmed what she was thinking and she reached out to her hospitals too and asked questions; she thought this was going to happen as exactly two weeks after the protest is when they started seeing the spikes and she thinks it will be seen coming down again and back up, but she thinks as far as the amount of positive cases, she found out they started testing younger people in the month of June, so the numbers are going up; she agrees there is more testing, but thinks the significant thing of the research, and she is no expert as everyone has become experts lately, but if she is watching whether the hospital is going to get overwhelmed or not, because they told her there would be highs and lows, but the goal was not to overwhelm the hospitals; they told her 80 percent of the population is going to get the virus; and hopefully, if the hospitals are not overwhelmed, people will not die of this. She stated flu season is coming up, the vaccines were discussed, there will be a vaccine for this and no one is going to get it; if this summer the younger people are getting it and they are not getting desperately sick or in the hospital, they are building a resistance and this will kind of lower the risk in the winter because they will not be carrying around the infection; as far as masks, when she goes into high-density areas, she wears one, but if she is able to stay six feet away, she is not; and she asked people to please wear them if they are in those areas, wash their hands, and do the things that need to be done, and if a person is high-risk, please just do not go out right now until there is a vaccine. She went on to say as far as getting everyone else out there trying to run life, if they are not at any more risk than getting a cold or flu, then they need to weigh this; the rates are starting to come down, as she thinks the peak from the protest, people being all packed together, that was a high-risk time period; and she is not going to support this right now as she thinks the hospitals and medical professionals are not overwhelmed, and she hopes everybody does what they need to do, but that is why is not going to support this today.

Chair Lober stated he thinks there is something important to bring up as he has talked with Mr. Johnson as well and thinks her conversation was profoundly different than his; he has written statements for Mr. Johnson and Jeffrey Stalnaker, Health First Chief Physician Executive, and one of the COO's at Health First, and they do not match what he is hearing from Commissioner Pritchett and Commissioner Isnardi; he is not saying that anything is being misrepresented, but he does not know.

Commissioner Isnardi interjected to say she can assure him that it is not, and she knows that he included part of Mr. Johnson's statement in his presentation in the beginning, and he had asked and said that his entire statement was going to be read into the record; and she said she could finish it; he said he recommends masking, like most health professionals; and she read

"It is not our role to make public policy and defer to the judgment of those who have been empowered to do so. We have confidence in our elected officials to act in the best interest of our community. Health First continues to care for Brevard and will offer clinicians, scientists, and other relevant persons to support the Commission should it choose to form a post-pandemic task force to consider public policy issues for future pandemics and related events." She stated he made it very clear to her on the phone, and in more than one conversation, that he did not want to be endorsing any public policy that the Board moves forward, that he would be more than happy to work as a post-committee person to look at this pandemic because this is new to all of them; the Health First stance, from her perspective, not just as a provider, but as a person that works for the company, it has a universal masking policy and all abide by it; this is health care and what should be done as the responsible thing to do for the patients; this was implemented early on, with temperature checks each time they enter the building, and the masking policy has gone so far now to be outside; and they want masks worn outside of the building because they want the public to see they are doing the best thing, everything possible to keep them safe.

Chair Lober stated he agrees Mr. Johnson does not want to be involved with making a political decision but if the Board looked at the statement that he believes Mr. Johnson thumbed-up, from Mr. Stalnaker, and he read "The pertinent part that concerns me is wearing masks will also preserve our ability to treat patients who are ill and safeguard the health of our medical professionals on the front lines providing care." He stated his conversation with him indicated that at the present, in the immediate next several days, they were not at risk of having issues of not having adequate staff, but there was concern expressed that in the not-so-distant future there may be a problem if the workers and clinicians that are treating folks continue to get infected; and he cannot speak as to why there may have been a difference in how it was conveyed to Commissioner Isnardi.

Commissioner Isnardi remarked that she asked that question and Mr. Johnson said that 20 associates tested positive, and most were community-acquired, out of 10,000 associates in the company; nothing has been shut down, they are not short on employees, they are not scrambling, none of that stuff there; and some of that, not saying it was Chair Lober, was misrepresented; and she asked those questions because she had a genuine concern and was not seeing it from the medical group side, so she wanted to ask.

Chair Lober asked if she said 20 out of 10,000, and if the 10,000 of those folks are actually treating patients or may be in administration and would never have contact with someone that reports to the ER.

Commissioner Isnardi stated most were community-acquired and most people were at the same event, so not catching it, necessarily, in the facility; their contact with COVID-19 patients, within health care, would be more cautious than average, she is guessing; and the question was whether they are having trouble filling positions, short of positions, or a bunch of people in their facilities sick, and that was not the case.

Chair Lober stated it is different from the way he understood it and that is the nicest, most diplomatic way he can phrase it.

Commissioner Smith stated he heard all the statements and he likes masks as he thinks they do work for the most part, and are better than nothing; and he thinks that masks should be a personal choice, not a government mandate, so he will not be in favor of doing anything with this either.

Chair Lober stated that makes the discussion rather quick, so the Board can move on to the next item.

Commissioner Isnardi stated she did not want to go through the laundry list of why she does not think the mandate is the way to go; she thinks there are other things the Board can do as far as education goes; she would not even be opposed to requiring businesses to at least post their masking policy and thought that was a great idea from Satellite Beach from one of their council members, because at least it takes the burden off of the Board, this is what someone is walking into when coming into their facility; either they have masked employees or they do not, but it kind of lets the rest of everybody know who is not sure what their policy is, because she knows there are a lot of businesses that require it; and she would encourage people to wear a mask where it is warranted. She stated she does and has them all over her car, in her purse, she gives them to people, which is something she does at work, as she wants people to protect other people; she does not want to jump the gun, especially if the numbers are going down; more people are being tested and she pulled those numbers today, and every day, and the percentage of positives is higher but it is so easy to get testing now, there is a drive-thru at Eastern Florida State College; she has patients contacting her all the time saying they were tested and they are negative; and she asked who is reporting that as she knows there was difficulty at one point, getting all of the labs to communicate to the DOH. She went on to say if those numbers are going down, and she thinks Maria Stahl, DOH, said it could possibly be leveling out, but they do not know; she thinks putting this mandate in place not only has the potential to overwhelm law enforcement, but it has the potential to put businesses at risk as well, because if they have to provide PPE to people that frequent their business, or for employees, they may not be able to; she does not want to go off on too many tangents, it is not for her, thumping the Constitution as much as it is, is it something that can be enforced, and she does not think that it is; as a medical provider, she encourages people to socially distance, wash their hands, and stay away from crowds if possible; there are other things people can do to keep safe and she encourages people to do that, and she will do whatever she can on her end to educate people and promote that; and she is open to solutions that do not require the Board to become mask police, because she does not think it is manageable at this point. She further stated she does not think it is something the Board can put on law enforcement and would rather have them fighting crime than dealing with domestic issues; she does not know if anyone has been yelled at in Publix for going down the aisle the wrong way, but she has, by a woman that was two feet from her, not wearing a mask; and she mentioned she was wearing a mask but did not see the arrows on the floor, so people have different priorities.

Chair Lober stated to keep in mind that there will always be a not so trivial percentage of people that, unless required to do the right thing, will not.

Commissioner Isnardi replied that they probably would not do it with the mandate anyway; she found it ironic that the doctor that spoke, she was listening to what he was saying until Chair Lober thanked him for calling in while he was vacationing in Alaska; it was strange, he is a physician, and he cares, he was following guidelines, but he was on vacation, and the County was trying to ban tourists just last month; she does not get it, everyone is going to have their own perspective on what they think is best, she thinks mandate or no mandate, people are going to do what they want to do; she thinks the Board's job, and her job having dual roles, is to educate people and she thinks it can do that effectively; she has seen more people with masks than she has seen in the last 30 days because she thinks people are more cautious and cognizant of their fellow man; and she hopes people will continue to be that way.

Chair Lober remarked that he did not know that it was necessarily appropriate to criticize someone for being in an isolated cabin in Alaska with his immediate family.

Commissioner Isnardi replied that she was not criticizing, she just thinks it is ironic that he is demanding that people do the right thing while he is on vacation, taking a personal risk, and she just thought she would point that out.

Chair Lober stated he thinks the population density where Dr. Williams is at is a trivial fraction of what it is here.

Commissioner Isnardi replied unless he walked there or beamed there, he still had to travel.

Commissioner Smith stated it was correct that everyone is not going to wear a mask; if someone is not afraid of a deadly virus, the Board is not going to make them wear one; if they are told they will be slapped on the hand, they are not afraid of a virus, so they do not care about being slapped on the hand, that is the problem; he was in the Keys before they did their mandate on businesses, and during the mandate, but even before the mandate, they had businesses that posted their policy on the door; the sign would say masks are required, and when a person walked in, one of the people working there would give the customer a mask if they did not have one; and other establishments did not care, they just said this is a no mask facility. He stated after the policy, their mandate is directed at businesses, all business employees and patrons must wear a mask, except in restaurants; and here is what is silly, a person has to wear the mask into the restaurant but once seated, it can be taken off, but the wait staff has to wear them; he thought that was interesting too, because when he was there, some wait staff did and some did not, but after the mandate, they all wore masks; and he thought maybe that was worth considering.

Chair Lober stated the thing that concerns him, apart from all the health care professionals who spoke, and he wanted to point out all were in favor, the one doctor that identified himself as a doctor of architecture, indicated very unambiguously that he had been in contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19, yet he was fine; that is the person that he is afraid of; he stated his sister-in-law has COVID-19 and she feels fine too, but is isolated because she is doing the right thing; the folks that were upset that the Board was not downstairs with them, that person is the reason why, he does not want to be anywhere near him; and he may feel perfect but that does not mean he is not spreading the virus right now.

Commissioner Smith remarked that is the problem, people cannot see it, and it is out there, it is real.

Chair Lober stated he would propose that at a minimum, the Board tries to facilitate those wanting to wear masks, wearing them; he would ask that it looks at allocating some significant amount of CARES Act funding to purchasing face coverings for the people that want them; and if there is an issue sourcing them, he does not care what their income is, if they do not have the income to purchase them, although he recognizes that they are relatively inexpensive, it would be nice to take some percentage of the money that the County received from CARES Act to purchase them and make them available for folks.

Commissioner Pritchett replied or find out who need them, because she would be glad to help people out to get them as they are only 67 cents on Amazon; she would not mind helping a few people; the Chamber made a bunch of them and they are handing them out in the community also; and she would not mind, even as a district project.

Chair Lober stated he was going to pass the gavel for a minute and make a motion as he does not want this thing to die at this point; and his motion is to require businesses, any business that has a tax receipt, to post whether they require face coverings be worn, conspicuously by any entrance that is accessible to customers.

Commissioner Smith stated he would second that as he does not think that encumbers anyone; and it is just an informational thing.

Commissioner Isnardi stated she did something very similar and she actually spoke with Attorney Bentley about it earlier, and all it does is inform the public; and if a grandmother goes to the grocery store or pharmacy, then she would be able to see right before she walks in what the policy is.

Commissioner Smith stated that Maria Stahl said that to him, and she refused to go to a restaurant if the wait staff is not wearing masks, and has walked in and told the manager that she was not staying if the wait staff does not wear a mask; and if that were posted on the door out front, and he is a free enterprise guy, if they see that their business is falling off because they are requiring or not requiring, they can make the choice.

Chair Lober stated he contemplates whether it is yes or no, it still needs to be posted regardless of what it is.

Commissioner Pritchett asked how long the Board would give them to do that.

Chair Lober replied it could be made effective....

Commissioner Pritchett interjected and asked what if a property does not do that; it is just a lot to talk through and work through; and when the Board did the others, it found places that specifically sold fertilizer and that was just for educational use.

Commissioner Smith remarked that it would not do anything, just like when the Governor prohibited bars, he can say there is a bar, Cabana Shores, right by him, is all outdoors so people can see that people are at the bar; and he said it is a voluntary thing.

Commissioner Pritchett stated she thinks if an educational promotion was done, she thinks it will help; she thinks that is a discussion that the Board should have in a little bit to get it a little more defined on how it would work; she thinks it is a good opportunity to educate the public; she thinks the curve is coming back down and a lot of curves will be seen; maybe the Board needs to do something prolonged into the future; and that is why she likes some of the things the County is going to reimburse for PPE, but she thinks this might be worthy of a second conversation on some ideas of how to help the community get educated. She went on to say that right now, to mandate it for every business, Chair Lober is going to have work through that with her because that is going to stress a lot of businesses out, figuring out how to hang it, and where to hang it.

Commissioner Smith replied just at the front door.

Commissioner Isnardi stated if the Board was comfortable with it, it could be a business that has more than so many patrons.

Commissioner Pritchett stated just like a piece of paper out front saying something.

Commissioner Isnardi stated she spoke to Attorney Bentley about it too and it is probably not her lane, but if it helps businesses, the Board could come up with a form that they could print off line, maybe with the Brevard County logo on it, something that is uniform that someone could put together in maybe 30 minutes, just basically some graphics, states the policy and it does not have to be technical and legal.

Commissioner Pritchett remarked that she liked that.

Commissioner Smith stated just an informational thing.

Commissioner Isnardi interjected exactly, just letting people know when they go in, not requiring them to do anything but notice, like a courtesy.

Commissioner Smith stated letting them know it is a no mask or mask facility, and suggested to give them two weeks.

Chair Lober responded he thought that was plenty and would not give them any longer than that, because returns diminish the further it is pushed out.

Commissioner Smith replied make it a week then.

Commissioner Pritchett asked how the Board is going to get that information out, as not everybody watches the meetings.

Commissioner Isnardi replied social media, and she is sure the Board has email addresses of a lot of the businesses too.

Chair Lober stated he is not looking at attaching some sort of prohibition or penalty at this time.

Commissioner Pritchett responded that she knew that, and that she would not agree to it anyway; and she asked what if it were done like a recommendation that stores get these out as soon as possible.

Chair Lober stated if businesses want to put it up sooner, they are more than welcome to, and he would love that, but he thinks giving them a week is reasonable; and he hates to put it on Don Walker, SCGTV Director, so he will work on publisher some photo editing or graphics software to put something together if need be, if staff does not want to jump on it.

Commissioner Pritchett asked if this is going to be an ordinance, if so, she will not agree to a week.

Attorney Bentley replied it would have two options, if the Board is wanting to use the emergency powers under Chapter 252, it can do that as it has taken over that authority and that has a penalty clause of 60 days or \$500; if it wants to do the emergency ordinance, it has the civil option for enforcement, that sort of thing; and the other thing that would be needed to consider is whether or not it wants the cities to be able to opt out.

Chair Lober replied definitely.

Commissioner Pritchett stated she would be willing to discuss this next week at the next meeting to make a decision.

Chair Lober stated he would like to give it a shot, quite frankly, because there is a motion and a second.

Commissioner Pritchett replied he is welcomed to, but she is not supporting it today, but might next week.

Chair Lober stated what he is thinking is obviously, the emergency order is out of the question, as he is not looking at sticking someone in jail for any amount of time over this; he thinks it would have to be an ordinance; and given that is the case, he asked Attorney Bentley what other questions would apply.

Attorney Bentley replied that he had the one week, the opt-out, and the mask or no mask simple notice, and that is what she is understanding he wants; and she asked if there was anything else.

Commissioner Smith stated yes, this is a mask facility or a no-mask facility.

Chair Lober stated as long as it is unambiguous, he does not care; they can have a picture of a N95 mask with a slash through it, he would be good with that; as long as it is clear to someone.

Commissioner Isnardi remarked that would tell people there were no mask allowed if it was like that.

Chair Lober replied she is right, he apologized, and it was a bad idea on his part.

Commissioner Isnardi stated the reason she suggested the County had that to provide, then it would be uniform and people would know what to look for.

Chair Lober asked if businesses should be required to use the County one or use their own; and he noted he does not care either way.

Commissioner Smith replied he thinks it would best to use the County one, as it would be uniform.

Commissioner Isnardi stated then they do not have to create it, it is easy to do.

Attorney Bentley asked if the Board wanted this brought back on the 7th or do it today and authorize the Chair to sign.

Chair Lober replied if he had the votes, he would like to do it today, if not, he would like to bring it back on the 7th.

Commissioner Isnardi stated she thinks it is a good compromise to make sure and encourage people and take businesses out of the awkwardness.

Commissioner Smith interjected that each business person has to know whether they are in favor of it or not, and it is just a simple matter of them letting the public know when they walk in the door what their preference is.

Commissioner Isnardi stated, just for the record, that she also spoke with Attorney Bentley about whether a business is allowed to force people to wear a mask; and a business is allowed to make those rules because it is non-discriminatory, not based on race, sex, gender, or any of that.

Chair Lober stated they can kick them out if they want to, that is the other thing; and if they are not forcing people to wear a mask, the alternative is to walk out and go elsewhere.

Commissioner Isnardi stated she did not want to put businesses in an awkward spot if it could

be avoided, and this is just noticing that she is ok with that.

Attorney Bentley stated in an emergency ordinance, it requires a supermajority vote.

Chair Lober Called the Question.

Commissioner Tobia asked how it was defining business.

Chair Lober stated there was a nice definition that was on a sheet that Attorney Bentley had.

Commissioner Tobia asked if a religious institution be required to post this.

Chair Lober stated he would leave it without it if he would support it, and leave religious institutions exempt.

Commissioner Tobia stated he did not support the fertilizer one, and thinks this is an infringement on private property rights; this is the start and soon will be in New York where places will have to put up the letter grade on restaurants as to whether they received an A, B, or C; and he just wondered if it was going to put mandates here on religious institutions and what the penalty should be.

Chair Lober replied zero penalty.

Commissioner Smith stated it is just an informational thing, but if he wanted to exempt religious institutions, most of the churches he knows of are requiring masks anyway.

Attorney Bentley stated she had a definition, it is what Leon County did, and she can read it into the record if the Board would like.

Chair Lober replied yes.

Commissioner Tobia stated to be clear, he did not vote for the fertilizer one because it was a mandate placed on businesses and he can see that this is the same way, so it will not get his support.

Commissioner Smith stated it is voluntary on the business.

Commissioner Tobia replied if a business wants to do it and it is truly voluntary, then the Board does need to take action right now.

Commissioner Smith replied it is a public informational thing, more than anything, and asked Chair Lober if that was the way he viewed it.

Chair Lober stated that is how he envisioned it, and if they do not want to do it, it is not like the Board is going to put cuffs on or give them a fine.

Commissioner Smith stated he did not know, however Chair Lober wanted to handle it.

Attorney Bentley stated the Board could do a proclamation like was done for the social distancing.

Chair Lober stated then the Board would not need a supermajority vote.

Attorney Bentley stated and it is voluntary.

Chair Lober stated he would amend the motion to make it a proclamation.

Attorney Bentley replied a proclamation requesting that they do it, like with the social distancing.

Commissioner Pritchett stated she would be comfortable with a proclamation, and she was talked out of the other one.

Commissioner Tobia asked Attorney Bentley if a proclamation would carry even less weight than the mandate the Board placed on fertilizer.

Attorney Bentley replied correct.

Commissioner Tobia remarked there is no penalty, just the Board suggesting that if a business is so-inclined to put up an advertisement of their choosing, they are more than welcome, and the Board would support them in that decision.

Attorney Bentley replied yes, it is a statement.

Commissioner Tobia stated if they do not, there is no penalty, no recourse.

Chair Lober stated he did not know if he was comfortable with that exact wording.

Commissioner Pritchett remarked that she liked it because the Board has not discussed it and it is about to put mandates on business without vetting it all the way to see if there is something that has not been thought through; and this is ok, it is doing exactly what was said to be done, getting the promotion out encouraging and asking the businesses to do this.

Chair Lober stated he did not mind phrasing it that way.

Commissioner Smith recommended the wording the Board encourages and recommends.

Chair Lober replied how about strongly encourages, and not add if they do not, it is okay.

Commissioner Smith stated for Chair Lober to come up with some wording as it is his motion.

Commissioner Tobia stated if the Board was counting votes, he would be in favor of it if the clauses are there at the bottom stating the Board wishes them well, and there is no penalty; he does not want them to have to retain an attorney to interpret it, so he wants it clearly spelled out and he will be more than willing to support it; and if that is left out, then he does not want there to be any ambiguity.

Commissioner Isnardi remarked she thinks that will be right at the beginning that it is recommended by the Board of County Commissioners, it is not going to be a mandate.

Chair Lober stated it almost seems like it would be discouraging them from doing anything if it says without there being a penalty clause, by the way we are not going to do anything.

Commissioner Pritchett stated she thinks the Board's recommendation says that it is just recommending this.

Commissioner Smith mentioned as a side note, Jerry Demmings, who he serves with on the

CFX, mandated masks in Orange County but they are not enforcing it.

Chair Lober stated he has been there and he can say they are wearing masks without there being a penalty, they are wearing them simply because it is mandated.

Commissioner Smith remarked he said it is working.

Commissioner Pritchett asked if there was a motion, and what was it.

Chair Lober stated the motion is to put in place a proclamation strongly recommending that businesses, as defined by Attorney Bentley and she will read into the record, be strongly encouraged to post at all entrances accessible to customers, whether or not they require masks to be worn, using a form to be provided by the County; and he asked if that was pretty well inclusive.

Attorney Bentley read the definition of a business from the Leon County ordinance, "a business establishment means a location with a roof overhead under which any business is conducted, goods are made, or stored, or processed, or where services are rendered. The term business establishment includes transportation network companies such as Uber and Lyft, vehicles operated for mass transit, taxis, limousines for hire, rental cars, and other passenger vehicles for hire. The term business establishment includes locations where non-profit governmental and quasi-governmental entities facilitate public interactions and conduct business. The term business establishment also includes places of worship." She did not know if he wanted all of that.

Commissioner Pritchett Called the Question.

The Board discussed mask regulations for Brevard County; approved a Proclamation to strongly encourage recommending that businesses post at all entrances accessible to customers whether or not they require a mask to be worn, to use a form to be provided by the County, and to follow the Leon County ordinance of a business establishment, meaning a location with a roof overhead under which any business is conducted, goods are made, stored, processed, or where services are rendered. The term business establishment includes transportation network companies such as Uber and Lyft, vehicles operated for mass transit, taxis and limousines for hire, rental cars, and other passenger vehicles for hire. The term business establishment includes locations where non-profit, governmental, and quasi-governmental entities facilitate public interactions, and conduct business, including places of worship.

Commissioner Pritchett returned the gavel to Chair Lober.

Result: Approved

Mover: Bryan Lober

Seconded: Curt Smith

Ayes: Pritchett, Lober, Smith, and Isnardi

Nay: Tobia

II. Discussion, Re: CARES Act

1. Staff Report on the CARES Act Funds that have been Obligated by Brevard County

Chair Lober asked if the Board was all fully ventilated with respect to the first round and can move to the second item; and he apologized to everyone who may be downstairs or elsewhere

that has waited for this on the CARES Act.

Frank Abbate, County Manager, stated he was going to power through the presentation in terms of what the Board has; as it knows, on May 5, the Board allocated Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) funds for five different areas, Public Health compliance, Medical Health expenditures, Public Health, Public Employee reassignment, unobligated Public Health and Safety on a reserved basis to use for anything else needed, including things like hurricanes where it would be needed, and during that time when this was done, the Board also took from an area which was called Economic Support that was \$44 million, and it put \$4.4 million into individual assistance for home, rent, mortgage, utility, and utility deposits; and since that time he told the Board at that point, County was going to give it reports in terms of what the expenditures were, so this is that report. The first thing he wanted to share with the Board, because it will be discussed in a few minutes what it wants to do with the unobligated dollars for economic support, where it is at today; there was \$105 million that was allocated, since that, in the various categories that are seen and were just mentioned, the County has obligated \$10.3 million; obligated means it has either been spent to date or it is outstanding requests that have been submitted to the County that are being vetted through an outside consultant who is helping to determine what would be CARES eligible funding, which is very important, because if money is given, the Federal government will audit to see whether or not CARES eligible, and if not, the Board would be responsible to pay that money back; and that leaves a balance of \$94 million, with \$21 million of that being unobligated Public Health and Safety dollars that are available and almost \$40 million is the unobligated Economic Support, which the Board directed the County look at for small business program options, which will be discussed in the next Agenda Item. He commented he wanted to share with the Board what is being done; in the Public Health Program, personal protective equipment (PPE), disinfection of public areas, and quarantine are those types of expenses; what has been procured with PPE expenses, beyond what the FEMA, and State of Florida has provided, are disinfectant spray, thermometers, gloves, face shields, warehouse expense, disinfecting wipes, hand sanitizer, procedural masks, KN-95 masks, and gowns; these are being distributed at charter offices, hospitals, nursing homes, long term care facilities, health care providers, County agencies, and municipalities; this includes some PPE that has been put to the side in case there is a hurricane and the County has to do sheltering; another important area is Medical Expenditure programs that includes the COVID-19 testing that the County partnered with hospitals, emergency medical transport, and Public Safety COVID-19 responses; the County partnered with Parrish Medical Center to do community testing, and Parrish was doing it before the partnership; their expenditures have been significantly more because they are doing more outreach into the community, buying vans for that specific purpose, and dedicated staff to do the testing; Health First has expended about \$45,000; and municipalities are doing sewer water testing, lab supplies, and etcetera. He continued to say another aspect of what the Board asked staff to do was to look at what hospital expenditures have been because it was concerned and wanted to look at potentially what to do in terms of using eligible CARES dollars for the hospital systems; there are three major hospital systems in Brevard and Parrish and Health First have reported what has been expended beyond what was already given to them for PPE, retrofitting, sanitization in their facilities, and staffing specifically related to COVID-19; what Health First has given is the amounts of unreimbursed expenses, which is a little over \$7 million and Parrish being a little over \$5 million; this does not include lost revenue, as that is an eligible expense for businesses and non-profits, not for government; and the Board wanted to make sure the expenses are unreimbursed and eligible expenses and staff will be vetting that. He continued to say Health First indicated a loss revenue of about \$64 million due to postponement of elective procedures, emergency room, etcetera and Parrish had about \$11.5 million; Health First also let the County know that so far, what they had received in reimbursement was about \$25 million, so the difference can be seen of what is outstanding; Parrish has indicated they were reimbursed about \$2.9 million so far. He stated staff has not

completed nor has the consultant in vetting that, but depending on where the Board wanted to go in that area out of that \$15 million, it could be doing something in that area, if it chooses.

Chair Lober interjected and asked Mr. Abbate what was meant by vetting that before the Board moves on.

Mr. Abbate replied he means, just because it has been submitted to the County, it does not necessarily mean they have sufficient documentation that is needed in order to make a payment; then when the Treasury comes and asks for justification, the County will have the documentation, because the U.S. Treasury guidelines say that the County has to maintain the documentation; it does not have to be received before the payment is made, but when they come to audit, it will have to be proven; there is a third party, which is Tetra Tech, for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) reimbursement, which is guiding staff and looking at expenses that are submitted for approval; what was done with municipalities, is one, is tell them that they can only get things that the County believes are going to be compensable or eligible, and two, if the Treasury comes back, there is a claw-back provision that says the funding would have to be returned if the Treasury finds it was not eligible; and the County is doing it in good faith and giving the funds out, but what he is hearing from the Board, unless it is changed, is that is very important to make sure that the Board is not left on the hook for those dollars, if and when the audit comes from the Treasury. He stated the next area is Public Health Compliance programs which the County Jail had sanitization, things that had to be done for social distancing, teleworking expenses, sick and family leave expenses, and non-congregate sheltering; what is seen is that the obligations the County has for charter officers is \$2.4 million and that includes a lot for the Sheriff for jail sanitization, jail transport, telework, and communications responses that have been submitted to the Board in terms of things that they are looking for and believe will be eligible, which will be vetted as well; and what has been received for municipalities that is currently in the vetting process, as well as what is shown for Brevard agencies. He went on by saying the next area, Public Employee Reassignment programs, is where the County, Sheriff, or municipalities for COVID-19 response, there is about \$700,000 from charter offices, municipalities have significantly less, and the County has about \$600,000 plus, that are dedicated there; that goes back to an earlier slide where he talked about the \$10 million that was obligated so far, either paid or in the vetting process; and that is what he wanted to share, but he does want Ian Golden, Housing and Human Resources Director, to give an update, and he has been directed to go as fast as he has, and share the rent and mortgage program and food assistance program that he has been working on.

Mr. Golden stated that \$4.4 million that was allocated by the Board for these programs and so far, for the rent and mortgage program has had 459 applications, about 64 percent from municipalities, and the remainder from unincorporated Brevard; almost 29 percent are being returned for missing documentation needed to vet the application; a decision was made that there had to be three or more documents missing for staff to return them, if less than three, staff actually reached out to the individual to try to get the documents sent in; there has been about an 18 percent denial rate, with reasons being they have not been able to prove a tie to Coronavirus, which is a requirement of the CARES Act dollars, they have to have lost 25 percent of their income, and not been able to prove that, and there is a cap of \$8,000 worth of liquid assets, those being things that could be turned quickly into cash, such as checking, savings, CD's, and bonds; there have been people who sought help with the mortgage, but they had \$95,000 in checking and savings, and the third-party verification will catch those items; and the average amount of assistance provided so far is about \$1,812. He continued to say when looking at the forecast for the rest of the program period, he believes, based on the current obligation, the denial rate of the applications, and the average amount, that the \$4.4 million is sufficient for the Rent and Mortgage Program; what he specifically wanted to talk about is the Food Stability Program; as the chart shows, there has been a 98 percent increase

from March through June 2019 to March through June 2020 and that increase equates to about 2.3 million meals; also the increase in assistance calls to 2-1-1 requesting food, how to get food, and where the food banks are, etcetera; and looking at forecasted food needs, looking at backfilling the traditional food banks and pantries and also the pop-up food pantries, that are only in place due to Coronavirus, it is predicted it could be an additional up to \$3 million up to the end of the program period. He got that number because staff is looking at the number of trucks that it could potentially get up to a week, depending on availability, the cost of those trucks, and approximately five months left in the program period; he is also looking at doing additional weekend meals through the Children's Hunger Project; he is looking at purchasing up to 150,800 meals through the end of the program period, which is approximately up to 6,600 meals a week to hand out at the different feeding locations that are in place to support the families that need additional food; and the final piece being looked at, as they are trying to get creative because some people are seeking assistance that have never had to before, so staff is trying to meet them potentially where they are. He went on to say that staff has been experimenting and last week began looking at supporting the County's farmer's markets and providing assistance through that; there is a process in place to vet the people that go through; people are able to get fresh fruits, vegetables, and these type of things from the farmer's market, and can only get food commodities there; there is a two-fold benefit as this helps the families but it also helps the agricultural industry; and based on those additional forecasted needs on the food, he has some requested Board actions. He noted his first request is for an additional \$4 million of the CARES Act funding to support just the Food Stability Program; the second item is to authorize the County Manager to execute the agreement with the Children's Hunger Project for up to \$754,446 for the weekend meals, because the County is only paying per meal, and will be invoiced on a reimbursement basis, and only pay for what is actually received and handed out; the third item is to authorize the County Manager to execute any other agreements or contracts that support the Food Stability Program, because he anticipates that there is going to be some needs as staff looks at the foreclosure and eviction moratorium ending and seeing that some businesses have chosen to close down again; and he mentioned there are other issues that will be happening, specifically the ending of the Federal additional unemployment benefits.

Mr. Abbate stated there are a couple of things, one being the requested Board action and whether the Board wants to do that, and then he wants to circle-back to one point on the Medical Expenditure Program; and if the Board wants to discuss whether it is willing to have a motion in accordance with the requests that Mr. Golden made.

Chair Lober asked the Board if someone wanted to make a motion, as to the items mentioned on the slide, to approve all of them in aggregate; and he asked if there was discussion on any of the items.

Motion by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Pritchett to approve an additional \$4 million in CARES Act funding to be allocated for the Food Stability Program (FSP); authorized the County Manager to execute an agreement with Children's Hunger Project for up to \$754,446 and all future amendments and modifications; and authorized the County Manager to execute any other agreement or contracts in support of the FSP.

Commissioner Isnardi stated she is a little concerned with the third item and in support of the Food Stability Program, but the second and third items concern her a little bit; she thinks what the Children's Hunger Project does is amazing, but now the Board is talking about bringing in non-profits again and that concerns her a bit; and the fact that item three basically gives full authority, and she is not saying he would do anything wrong or sinister of course, but it is too vague and that concerns her.

Mr. Golden responded that he understands and, it is not on the slide, but everything that would be brought forward for Mr. Abbate would go through Risk Management and the County Attorney; the Children's Hunger Project contract or agreement has actually been through both; he understands they are a not-for-profit but he also does not want to treat them differently; like under the food bank program, if he supports them, he has to contract with an egg company, it is the same idea of whether it is private or not-for-profit, he is just buying a commodity; and the same with the Children's Hunger Project, he is buying the commodity, the meal, so whether he is buying it from a not-for-profit or a for-profit is not the purpose, it is to get the meals out. He went on to say he understands what she is saying and part of the thought process on the third item was because he may need to move quickly to address needs and he did not want to have to call a special meeting; and staff does vet everything, and it would go through Risk Management and the County Attorney.

Commissioner Isnardi asked if it could come to the Board after the fact, if necessary, because she would not have a problem with that; and she really likes it as it is what should be done with the those monies, the County should be taking care of the residents.

Commissioner Smith asked if she would like some language changed for the motion.

Commissioner Isnardi replied she did not know if she needs language changed, she just wanted clarification that it would come back to the Board if it is modified, changed, added to, or otherwise.

Mr. Abbate remarked it could be brought back in a report or the Chair could execute the agreement with the County Manager; and he did not know if that makes a difference.

Commissioner Pritchett asked if there were management costs to do this or just purely getting the food out.

Mr. Golden replied correct, he is not looking at using any of the dollars to support administration or operations for any companies, this is only for buying commodities.

Commissioner Tobia asked Mr. Golden how long he expected the funds to last.

Mr. Golden replied ideally until the end of November; part of that has to do with the timing of invoices and the timing of the end of when he can expend these dollars; he does not want an invoice to come in in December that, because of processing and the holidays, is not actually paid until after January 1.

Chair Lober stated, with respect to the motion, the motion stands and second stands; and he asked if there was any further discussion and he noted he had a stack of cards for this item.

Mr. Abbate stated he was going to go back to the medical expenditures as they related to the hospitals; one thing he had mentioned is that the County is doing community testing with partners and what is seen here is that those expenditures are already incorporated as part of the \$16 million that is allocated for medical expenditure; once staff vets those expenses to Parrish, Health First, and municipalities, it will be paid out with the CARES dollars under the allocation that was already approved; what he would like is guidance from the Board, because at a prior meeting, the Board indicated it wanted to look at what it was going to do potentially for hospitals; and since that information was shared, it could fall under the medical expenditure of that \$16 million, and if the Board wanted to give the County any further direction on how it would like to proceed, the County could move forward.

Commissioner Pritchett stated she loves that those funds were found and that Health First and Parrish have submitted, and she would like for Steward to still be able to submit; she thinks maybe cap it at \$5 million for each entity, but it has to be reimbursable as far as what they are doing in the community; she thinks the money is already there, but thinks it would be smart to just put a \$5 million cap on each of the three entities for reimbursement.

Chair Lober remarked that is a lot.

Commissioner Pritchett stated they are already getting \$16.1 million in the reimbursements but it has to be for the Coronavirus; she said she knows the Board is about to talk about small businesses, but hospitals do not have a choice, they have to treat people and make these changes, they cannot just shut down because they are not getting enough business; she thinks it is fair to reimburse the hospitals, as the County and cities are being reimbursed, and she thinks even doctor's offices if they are having to incur costs on things they have no control over,

and unable to close their doors; this is one of her better thoughts when using the funds for reimbursements, as they have to do this job and take care of people medically; and she feels pretty good about this one and thinks putting a cap on it might be smart.

Commissioner Tobia stated he had no problem with the cap, but a can of worms has been opened; the Board is talking about somewhere in the magnitude of \$1 million cumulatively; the Board needs to look at this; first, he disclosed that his brother is an employee of Health First and has been for some time, also he has Traveler's car insurance and they sent him a check because insurance industries are making so much money right now because people are not driving as much or going to the hospitals; and he has numerous reports about how health insurance companies are making more money than they have ever made as the premiums are coming in but people are not getting surgeries. He stated Health First saw this and they bifurcated, so they not only have a business model in which they serve patients, but another one in which they are insurance; because they are losing on one end, even though much of it is reimbursed, and by the way hospitals do not lose, when the Board looks at the salaries of individuals, it could get into this and the Board would probably understand, some of the non-profits, and it will talk about that later when it gets into small businesses that make far more than the folks here that run a billion dollar enterprise; the \$5 million seems a little bit arbitrary, and he asked would it not make more sense to cap it based on the number of patients that they may have; he further stated he imagines that Health First has many more patients and serves a great deal more than Parrish, and Parrish serves a great deal more than Steward; and the Board is going to have a lot of questions when it gets into reimbursing. He asked what is a loss, as he saw some of the numbers and some of these health care facilities are claiming tens of millions of dollars in losses for postponed surgeries; in other words, they did not get the \$50 or \$60 million dollars this month, but they will get it the next, and if they do not get it the next, then they will get it the one after; he said he could not do his taxes that way, getting a big bonus in January, they would still have to pay taxes on that big bonus at the end of the year; he has no problem with this if there is a motion to reimburse this; and he just wants to know why Parrish's amount is 20 times the amount of community testing, and asked if they worked with the County that much more than Health First.

Mr. Abbate replied he believes their testing has been significantly more expansive; he thinks Health First was doing it at their hospital, they partnered with the County and gave the County their labor costs; he believes Parrish has multiple vans, and like seven people dedicated to each one that is going out into the community and has been since very early on, so that is all incorporated in that number; and if he was hearing correctly, the unreimbursed expenses that can be vetted, these plus the others on the next slide, there would be a cap for each

organization by whatever amount the Board decides to set.

Commissioner Pritchett remarked to Commissioner Tobia that Health First got a lot more reimbursements.

Commissioner Tobia replied he is okay with it 100 percent; he does not need convincing, he was just curious as to why Parrish Medical...

Commissioner Pritchett interjected she thinks it is just the net of not being reimbursed as much, but she just talked to Mr. Abbate about it to figure out where he is at on what he is looking at for reimbursements; he is really going to have to do the math on that; as far as the three major hospitals, she does not know if it will be more or less because she knows Health First covers a lot more area; and he will have to figure out the distributions and percentages.

Commissioner Isnardi stated she was wondering why the cap number would be the same considering that Health First is four-times the system that Parrish is.

Commissioner Pritchett stated she thinks Parrish has gotten about five-times the amount of reimbursements already, so there is a smaller net between the two.

Commissioner Isnardi stated Health First has four-times the employees so one could say their loss was four-times as much.

Commissioner Pritchett stated it could be, but she thinks they had a \$9 million differential and Parrish had like \$7 million; and she thinks Mr. Abbate would have to look at that.

Commissioner Isnardi stated she would like to look at those numbers a little more closely.

Commissioner Pritchett stated nothing has been received from Steward yet.

Commissioner Tobia inquired if those buckets were completely arbitrary; he stated that bucket could be \$1.6 million, or as long as it falls within that \$95 million; and he asked if that was correct, because it was \$105 million minus the \$10 million that was allocated.

Mr. Abbate replied those were the best numbers on May 5, where he thought those expenses would go; what is being talked about here, is what the County was giving the Board is what the health systems in response to the County's inquiry; the inquiry was for the unreimbursed expenses and that is what the two hospital systems gave, and that is where staff stopped in terms of that, now he is coming back to the Board as it allocated this many dollars; and he asked if the Board want him to do a program.

Commissioner Tobias stated if it is counting votes here, could it go back to the million dollar one; his goal is to allocate as few dollars as possible as it does not know how this is going to change, whether there will be hurricanes, whether constitutional officers will have needs, and there are a lot of unanswered questions at this point; and it sounds as though staff has vetted this.

Mr. Abbate stated these are not vetted, these are the numbers they gave us; these are for community testing which the County partnered with them; he asked remember when the County opened up all the additional testing facilities; it was done through partnerships with Health First and Parrish; and they were asked what the cost was for community tests.

Commissioner Tobia stated so the County partnered with them, but has not yet vetted these numbers.

Mr. Abbate replied no.

Chair Lober asked if the Board should wait to approve anything for the hospitals until the next meeting; he does not see they are at a risk of financial ruin by waiting a couple of weeks; the other thing is, and he will be the mean one to say it and it would actually negatively impact his District more so than others, he would like to know where they are headquartered because he knows that there is one hospital, within walking distance from his house, that is not headquartered locally, and frankly, if an out-of-state company takes a beating financially, so that it can keep the money flush in Brevard, he would much prefer to see it with systems that are based in Brevard; and he would assume Parrish and Health First are based here in Brevard and he knows that Steward, unless he is mistaken, is based out of State.

Mr. Abbate remarked Steward is a private hospital system; they are each a different type, one is a non-profit, one is a semi-governmental, Parrish was State statute formulated, there are three different types of hospitals; his staff is just trying to be responsive to the Board in terms of it saying to look at the three hospital systems, and staff was trying to gather information as to what their unreimbursed expenses were; and he will say, it will not happen in a couple of weeks, it is going to be a significant period of time before staff is able to get the specific documentation, have it vetted, then reach agreements with them, as he believes the Board is going to be asking as these expenses have to be unreimbursed currently or will not be reimbursed, otherwise there will be a claw-back for that if they are reimbursed or if the Treasury comes back and says they are not eligible expenses.

Chair Lober stated he worries more even if they are reimbursable, because the fact is, if they can get the money elsewhere, let them get it from elsewhere; but if they know they are getting it from the County and if they get reimbursed the second time, the County will claw it back, they will not even bother filling out a sheet; he does not know, he is a little skeptical about handing it over; and he understands the County has a huge pot of money, but it needs to make it go as far as it possibly can.

Commissioner Pritchett stated she does not think they are probably in a risk of getting it reimbursed; they will get a lot of it; she just knows that they are just so important in what is going on; so even if the Board just says use that pot and staff will figure it all out later; she just did not want it to go above this amount of money right now, because she thinks they could probably utilize a big chunk of it; and however the Board wants to frame it or even if it needs to say anything, she thinks Mr. Abbate did some good numbers work, but she thinks hospitals and the medical field is important to be reimbursed for what they are spending out-of-pocket.

Chair Lober stated he is not inclined to do it today, he is sorry, if he has to vote, whether it is one, two, or three.

Commissioner Pritchett stated she is fine, as Mr. Abbate has it allocated already; and she just feels bad for the hospitals.

The Clerk remarked that the Board needed to call the vote for Item II.1., Staff Report, Re: CARES Act Funds that have been Obligated by Brevard County.

Chair Lober asked if the Board was alright with that, and asked if that slide could be brought up again; he asked if there was any further discussion on this as he knows there was a bunch of discussion but there is a motion and a second, so he is going to Call the Question if there is no further discussion; and seeing there was no further discussion, he Called the Question and it

passed unanimously.

The Board approved an additional \$4 million in CARES Act funding to be allocated for the Food Stability Program (FSP); authorized the County Manager to execute an agreement with Children's Hunger Project for up to \$754,446 and all future amendments and modifications; and authorized the County Manager to execute any other agreement or contracts in support of the FSP.

Chair Lober stated to get back to the last slide.

Mr. Abbate stated that was the last side and he is ready to go to the next agenda item.

Result: Approved

Mover: Curt Smith

Second: Rita Pritchett

Ayes: Pritchett, Lober, Tobia, Smith, and Isnardi

2. CARES Act Funding for Economic Support Programs

Chair Lober stated he had a slew of speaker cards, a smaller slew than he had previously, there are 20 on this one.

Commissioner Pritchett stated it might be an advantage for the Board to have discussion first before the speakers, because they would know what parameters the Board is wanting to go with for the small businesses.

Chair Lober stated one of the items that he has been looking at with Career Source Brevard, he thinks that there is a huge potential advantage in allocating some reasonable amount of money to them; he thinks it could be done with them and also potentially with the Chambers, on a trial basis, to see how much it ends up costing per individual that gets placed, with each of the organizations so that it can say the Return on Investment (ROI) with Career Source is X, the ROI with one or more Chambers is Y, so for allocating purposes in the future it gets more bang for the buck continuing in one direction or the other; the initial proposal from Career Source that was put in was for \$750,000 and he and staff worked with them quite a bit to try to keep the administrative costs as low as possible, and they have done a good job doing that; he thinks it is something that would be impactful to those folks that are placed in jobs that otherwise would not be or take longer to get jobs; and his philosophy with it is he would rather pay to have someone put in a gainful occupation, so that they are able to pay their ongoing expenses from here on out, than to pay their mortgage or rent for longer than need be. He stated the fact is, it cannot be done past the end of the year and the money may run out at some point; the need is for something that is more long-term and he thinks getting people placed in jobs would be a good way of going about it; he would rather spend the same amount of money getting someone placed, than paying off their expenses for the meanwhile; and that is one program he intends to support. He stated the other item he intends to support, as he alluded to the Chamber program, he is supportive, at least in concept of allocating them some money as well; Brevard County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) has put in a request, and he thinks that it is reasonable; and if staff is of the opinion that the County is not going to have concerns with the Treasury clawing it back, he would be inclined to support that as well.

Mr. Abbate stated none of that has been vetted; there are several items that BCSO submitted and the County already has it planned in, but there are one or two items that they asked him to look at and whether or not that would be eligible under the CARES Act is questionable, but staff will do everything it can to see if it can qualify; and he thinks it is just being careful of a claw

back even though it is going to be the Board's dollars, and it has a degree of confidence that the County would get through an audit of whatever is submitted.

Chair Lober stated he thinks by looking at it, they are reasonable expenses, but that does not mean that he is vetting it for what Mr. Abbate is vetting it for; he is vetting it to see if it is reasonable, not whether it complies or does not comply with the requirements, so obviously he is going to rely on staff to do that as they have done with a lot of the other items; and he asked if Chief Deputy Waller would like to say a few words.

Chief Deputy Doug Waller stated he has been working very closely with Mr. Abbate and his staff, and what he said is completely accurate; BCSO has submitted some recommendations that they believe will fit under the CARES Act, but has no idea at this time if they will because of the vetting process; there was one that related to a project called Mutual Link, that is a platform, this is a recommendation just for staff to review and see if it would be eligible, but it is very valuable too; BCSO used it and researched it for the school board and they have been contracted to provide the district's security for the school board and this platform gives them the ability to communicate either by a computer, radio, cell phone, audio and video instantaneously with every single campus in Brevard County; as a first responder, they respond in the blind for the most part, having no idea what they are heading to; and the information is usually inaccurate or delayed, and this platform, that has been submitted for consideration, would allow them, not just the Sheriff's Office, but County leadership, to be able to communicate instantaneously with the hospitals, the Port, the airport, with all law enforcement, and with all Fire Rescue. He continued to say an example would be, the shooting at Parrish Hospital several years ago, when they responded with Titusville Police Department (TPD), they had no idea where the active shooter was; they would have the ability through this platform, to access their security cameras and actually, as they are responding, get real-time information and see where the subject is; he just wanted to be able to give a short presentation on that one, because that is one he threw in there, it is not an actual recommendation from the Sheriff for staff to consider; and the other items he feels very confident that they will be eligible but they have not been vetted yet and they look forward to that.

Chair Lober stated he appreciated Mr. Waller and BCSO and also Mike Haridopolos for reaching out to him in advance on the items as it put him in a better spot in terms of understanding what they were and what the requests were.

Commissioner Tobia stated he guessed his office does contact tracing for deputies that may or may not be exposed.

Mr. Waller replied they provide contact tracing for every one of their employees who are suspected of an interaction with someone that has tested positive.

Commissioner Tobia stated more of the research is coming out as pointing out that this is a direct way to limit the spread of COVID-19; and he asked if they had the expertise, would they have the manpower to take more of a responsibility that would go outside, as he cannot imagine that would fall outside of the CARES Act parameters should they take a larger role with that.

Mr. Waller agreed, and stated it is a difficult process and to say they have the adequate resources, yes and no; it is a new world and as a result, Court Service Deputies, Jail Deputies, they are doing different things with different people that normally, would not be done; he believes they have the resources available to assist in that and the Sheriff believes it is very important that trace research gives them the ability to reach out and contact anyone who does not know they may be a possible spreader at that point in time, and he thinks that is very

valuable; and that is part of some of the suggestions that they have presented to County staff.

Commissioner Tobia stated he asked the wrong question about the resources; he asked if they have the intelligence, the backing to it, as the County has \$95 million in resources to help them out and to facilitate a winding down of COVID-19; and since BCSO has the expertise and the County has the resources, maybe those could be put together and help solve this in a quicker fashion.

Mr. Waller replied he is confident in their ability that has been done so far, that they would be able to assist the Health Department or other agency, to do some of these crazy trace contacts.

Commissioner Pritchett stated she just wanted to throw it out that it is 6:20 p.m. right now and she does not know about the rest of the Board, but she is not going to be much good getting details past 6:30 p.m.; she thinks it probably should have done this first because it was an Agenda Item with people showing up; she wanted to know what the Board is expecting to get out of this tonight and if it was trying to give them an overview of where it is wanting to go with this; it is not going to come to any definite decisions tonight; and there is a stack of speaker cards so she thought she would be the elephant in the room or bring it up and see where the Board wants to end up with this so maybe it can work towards where it wants to be, so it is not going down a bunch of rabbit trails tonight.

Commissioner Tobia stated he is in the same belief as the Chairman that he feels comfortable allocating as it did the \$4 million for direct food assistance and expediting as much as possible for the constitutional officers to be run through Tetra Tech to make sure that those meet and continue the vetting process of the various entities that put it forward; but he thinks it is into too much when it is 6:30 p.m. deadline discussing not only the amount that would go to small businesses, and non-profits; and then there is a secondary level of that, who is going to be administering that and the efficacy of all that good nonsense, and he thought that would be even longer than what the masks would be.

Chair Lober asked what the Board would like to do because he had 20 cards, and a few of them may have walked out at this time; and he asked if it wanted to hear from the public or have discussion.

Commissioner Pritchett replied that she did not know.

Chair Lober stated to see what there were, card-wise, and go with that if there is ambiguity, because he does not want to keep anyone waiting any longer; he thinks it has tried to give them as much as possible by having a little discussion on the front end so they can give their comments accordingly; and he stated to go with that and start the comments.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mark Wagner, Viera, stated as a small business owner, he has owned Miami Subs and Grill restaurant and now works with tons of restaurants in the Brevard County and outlying areas; they are severely impacted; if any business that is run, especially a paint spraying place that painted cars, and lost 50 percent of their business or greater, some are as much as 85 percent loss in revenue during this COVID-19 shutdown, so look at keeping the money local, hyper local, like was talked about; why give it to a large corporation, give it to the franchisees, give it to the restaurant owners to keep businesses solvent because right now, they are having to lay off their staff, now the PPE is completely extinguished so they do not have any of that money and they cannot reapply for it; and all of a sudden now, all of their employees are having to go

back because they just re-shutdown because of the new events that have come about. He continued to say they need to try to allocate for businesses because that money spins around in the economy about six times, so by saving them money or getting them cash flow during these pivotal times is, he thinks, extremely important for any of the small businesses and not just restaurants, but a lot of the bigger corporations were able to work remotely; there are dry cleaners, a lot of the service businesses that service other businesses that were shut down, those have been impacted severely also; the Board cannot sit back and say it needs to spend this money, like stated before, it does not need to be spent on large corporations that are going to get it outside of this realm, it needs to be kept here in Brevard, circling throughout Brevard so other people do not have to come and pay for rent, or personal things, as they would have a job to go to and businesses that can feed everybody; and he knows because he used to feed a lot of people from the County, BCSO, and the Brevard Zoo.

Beverly Squire-Wiggins, Palm Bay, stated she was encouraged when the Chair mentioned Career Source and the Chamber of Commerce; she is there to ask the Board to consider the plight of the Chamber who, like the business community, are significantly impacted by these unprecedented events happening globally; as Brevard County businesses struggle in so many ways financially, what is happening to them drastically is impacting her Chamber too; she was here to say the business community needs the Chambers to keep providing them much-needed business support; the Chambers are helping businesses to navigate what can only be described as uncharted territory with the light of hope for many businesses; and it is the business community dollars that fuel the Chamber through their membership dollars as these dollars enable the Chambers to provide the essential services the businesses need right now. She continued by asking the Board to consider setting aside funds that the Chambers can utilize to enable them to sustain themselves through the pandemic; the Chambers need the County to stand with them as they have proudly stood with the Brevard community for decades; Brevard County and each city has also used the Chamber, the established platforms that they have to reach and communicate with its messaging; she is saying that the community has used the Chamber as a platform and is connected with large, midsized, and small businesses that the community, which includes governors, elected officials, law enforcement, fire departments, Sheriff departments, the cities themselves, non-profits, and other organizations, have all used the platform of the Chamber; and the Chamber needs the community now, as the Chamber is hurting just as much.

Chair Lober stated he appreciated her waiting and the short answer, as he cannot have the interaction with everyone, is yes, he is willing to consider that, provided that it is something that would qualify the Board to use the funds.

Brandy Crisafulli, Merritt Island, stated she is the president and founder of Life Recaptured and they rescue human trafficking victims and then place them in safe homes; right now they are working with law enforcement with Sheriff Ivey, and she is also on a task force for human trafficking but they have no place to put the victims here in Brevard County; what they are trying to do is, when they rescue them, they try to find safe places and take them and put them in areas where no one can find them; one case that they had, had COVID-19, so that infected the other people in the homes, another case, they had a girl that left and they could not find her; and they are in need of help to get a safe home. She continued to say there is a staff of about 42 people, a good core group, working together in the community, but since the shutdown, they cannot raise funds; they would like some help to try to get them into some safe homes, as they have some funds that were already raised, but the rest of the monies that they need, because of the shutdown, they cannot go any further; after listening to the Board, she thinks it might be that it fits into one of the categories, so it would come under health and safety; and she asked if the Board would just consider talking to them and knowing what they are doing and maybe being able to help them.

Chair Lober asked Mr. Abbate if that was something that would fall under revenue replacement and be an issue, or if there is a possibility, but obviously the Board will look at anything that is proposed.

Sofia Mazo, Melbourne, stated she is there on behalf of many voices within her community, all of which have been waiting for over four hours for an agenda item that the meeting was supposed to start with; she is there as an advocate, a teacher, a godmother, and a sure product of Brevard County and she does not feel safe here; if the virus has taught people anything, it is that the County seriously lacks transparency and accountability in the leadership; it is time those that people are trusting to protect them, including the elected officials, start doing just that; Brevard was granted over \$100 million dollars in CARES Act funding, yet barely any of the over \$60 million, that was already allocated, has actually been put into action; and if one is even lucky enough to qualify to receive part of that \$4.4 million for individual assistance, the aid goes directly to their creditor. She continued to say now people are really being told this is all their fault, and that the best thing to do is give almost \$40 million to businesses; people are suffering, and she does not know how to fix the problem people are facing, and that is why she does not have the Board's job; she does know there is a problem and there is a deep injustice; and she stated do better, put the people over profits, divest in policing people, and invest in their lives.

Joseph McNeil, Melbourne, stated he represents the American Legion Post 191 in Melbourne, and because of the epidemic and shutdown, the 300 plus members have been suffering to maintain the post and to maintain the ability to pay the mortgage, utility, and so on; being a 501(C)19, he is asking that the Board consider whatever assistance can be rendered to help maintain the building; they foresee that if they do not get some type of help, they are going to lose the building to the mortgage company and they do not want to see that happen; as he stated, there are 300 plus members collectively, and with the second closing, it is difficult for them to see if they are going to be able to maintain it; and they are still trying to do things such as bake sales to at least pay the utility bills but it is still difficult because they cannot get the communication out like they do. He further stated they tried on social media but it is still difficult; and he is just asking if there is any way possible to consider a 501(C)19, which is a non-profit and it will help those soldiers or military personnel who have gone on and served the Country, to help maintain their facility.

Tracy Strodard, Palm Bay, stated she is honored to be standing before the Board representing small businesses here in Brevard County and thanked the Board for entertaining these grants; she is the chairwoman of the Greater Palm Bay Chamber of Commerce and the founder and CEO of Everything Brevard.com magazine and website; she has lived in Brevard for 35 years and has championed small business success since 1990 when she launched her first business and her business is currently a member of all four Chambers of Commerce; what she enjoys most about her relationship with the Chambers is the opportunity to connect, learn, grow, and serve with other like-minded business professionals; and the Chambers have been a long-standing and reliable resource for the business community. She continued to say collectively the Chambers serve over 33,000 businesses and nearly 100,000 employees and she is proud to be a part of what the Chambers have accomplished during this unprecedented time; the Palm Bay Chamber has provided informational videos to its members and business community via Facebook, 80 percent were non-chamber members, meaning this was a huge outreach to the community at large, people trust the Chambers; the Greater Palm Bay Chamber also launched a back to business celebration, interviewing 21 businesses, sharing their stories on how they are keeping their people safe and their customers safe, and sharing stories of success through this process; one of the newest trustee members joined and stated if they had not gotten the information provided in the Chamber's webinar on the bridge loan

Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL) programs when they did, and as thoroughly as they did, they are not sure where their business would be today; communication is key; and people know the fastest way to recover is to put people back to work or keep them working.

Laura Anne Pray, Titusville, stated the most important thing she wanted to say is a Chamber's mission and purpose is to help small businesses succeed; as mentioned previously, the best pathway forward to minimize rental supplements and other programs is to get businesses back on their feet and employees working; this is what Chambers do every day; at the onset of the pandemic, the four Chambers in Brevard established a countywide coalition of business organizations, the Brevard County Business Community COVID-19 Response Team, to help ensure messaging was consistent to the community and working together more efficiently, rather than competing with one another; and together they produced six webinars with presentations from the Small Business Association (SBA) and the Small Business Development Center. She went on to say they also held sessions with local subject matter experts to share information on best practices, held sessions with the Florida Chamber of Commerce on Florida's road to recovery, and then local leaders on Brevard's road to recovery; these webinars have continued in partnership with We Venture and are now held bi-weekly on a variety of topics; all of these presentations were provided at no cost to any members or businesses in the community; this was not a member-only event and people were allowed to participate regardless of their association with any of the organizations; and the sessions are recorded and are shared continually; and each organization has received numerous testimonials from local businesses that they would not have known what to do without the webinars. She further stated all four of the Chambers have put up specific COVID-19 information pages on their website to update as it becomes available; they have done numerous broadcasts on social media, and at the Titusville Chamber, they have built a restaurant page as well as distributing 30,000 cloth face masks to local businesses, and created a Take the Pledge campaign to highlight the measures that small businesses are taking to ensure the safety of their employees and their customers; and that is open to all businesses regardless of their membership.

Jennifer Sugarman, President and CEO of the Cocoa Beach regional Chamber of Commerce, stated as many of her counterparts have already alluded to, the Cocoa Beach Chamber of Commerce joined several other Brevard business groups to form the Brevard Business Community COVID-19 Response Team back in March; part of the group's approach and intent was to become a one-stop shop for hurting businesses in Brevard to find resources; one thing the Chamber has learned from surveying, and one-on-one communication with all 1,500 of their business partners, was that some were not eligible for assistance through the PPP or the EIDL and many were interested in how the County could assist them as the virus continues to have devastating impacts on the economy; amongst the four Chambers of Commerce in Brevard, they represent over 3,000 businesses that span across very diverse business sectors; and the Chambers, being a 501(c)6 non-profit, and her Chamber in particular, also housing a 501(C)3, they are sensitive to the needs of the over 160 non-profit business partners. She further stated while having an option for them by way of supporting their PPE efforts is welcomed and nice, a non-profit's business expenses echo a for-profit business by way of payroll, rent, utilities, mortgages, and more; the Chamber urges the Board not to forget the non-profits in Brevard, as well as the home-based businesses; as a Chamber with a large base of hospitality and tourism partners, a sector among the hardest hit by the COVID-19, they would also like to stress the importance of supporting the restaurants, bars, hotels, and attractions through this time; she feels it is important to touch on all Chamber's rainy day funds and reserves as well, as just like small businesses, they also have reserves; and these are by far and away largely used for hurricane relief, amongst others disasters that cannot be planned for. She went on to say COVID-19 has caused the Chamber and most of its small business partners to entirely redo

how business is conducted, furthermore, when businesses come back, it is in a limited capacity, and this is certainly above and beyond anything that could have been planned for; they appreciate the Commission's consideration of small business assistance and as a Chamber that services 80 percent, one to five employees, they certainly hope that the Board will be in favor of some sort of grant program; she knows the small business task force is going to present on that, they are in favor of it, and mindful of what the community needs by way of small businesses; and she thanked the Board for what it does, they are there late and she is sure it will be there late again, it is a thankless job, and she thanked the Board for putting on the table for small businesses, as they need it.

Todd Pokrywa, stated he was representing the Melbourne Regional Chamber of Commerce, and is the Chairman of the Board of Directors this year for the Melbourne Chamber; the Chambers of Commerce in Brevard have been hit just as hard as many others in the community, and as already heard, were unfortunately left out of the PPP program; the Melbourne Chamber shares the same challenges as their counterparts, as they have experienced a 45 percent decrease in projected revenue and anticipate that at the end of the year membership, revenue will be down at least 30 percent; as a Chamber, they took steps to ensure their 95 year old organization's viability and made proactive, operational decisions including reducing staff by 50 percent, across-the-board pay cuts for those that remained, and a reduction of monthly overhead; and they immediately revised their strategies and formulated concrete action plans to advocate and help drive the recovery of the region. He continued to say all the Brevard County Chambers led the way, worked diligently to provide timely guidance and assistance to all businesses in the community whether they were members or not; they all provided relevant and valuable resources that offered strategies and opportunities, form strong partnerships and alliances to streamline offerings and messaging, cohesively respond to requests from the community, and the Melbourne Regional Chamber partnered with the City of Melbourne and others on the Back-in-Business campaign and developed a staycation campaign to help restart the Space Coast economy; in addition, due to the virtual program they offered and the partnerships they initiated with the SBA, weVENTURE, and the banking industry throughout the community, they were able to help hundreds of businesses obtain information and critical resources to keep them afloat; he would be remiss if he did not touch on the powerful collective impact of all the businesses they represent, large and small, like L3 Harris, Health First, Northrup Grumman, Absolute Accounting, Evergreen Lawn Care, and many others; they provide a forum for these companies to strategically plan for the Space Coast community growing into the future; now more than ever, the Chamber's value is evident as they have played a pivotal role in assisting members of the business community move toward recovery and be a driving force in creating an environment in which business and community thrives; and they are asking the Board to consider a direct allocation to each of the four Chambers in the County, if they are to ensure the long-term sustainability of the organizations in their region and be a resource to the members in the community, they need its support.

Adam Copenhaver, Rockledge, stated he was there as a local citizen, a father, and a business owner, who lives in the city of Rockledge and belongs to three of the four Chambers; he was actually in the process of joining the fourth, when COVID-19 set him back a little; needless to say, he supports the Chambers of Commerce and he believes that they represent thousands of businesses, the vast majority of which are for-profit small to medium sized locally owned businesses; a lot of those are suffering as heard this evening, and what he is there to ask is that not only would it include the Chambers of Commerce in an allocation of funds, so that they can continue the work that they have done here in Brevard County, but that it would utilize their presidents, staff, and their board of directors expertise to not only facilitate the processes for small to medium sized businesses for these funds, but also to be a hub for business for the future as it has been in the case of the Melbourne Chamber for the last 95 years; and he is

asking that it would consider supporting not only the four Chambers of Commerce, but also utilize their expertise and staff to facilitate some of the processes of this fund allocation with small to medium sized businesses.

Stuart Borton, Malabar, from Yellow Dog Café, is there to support the Chambers of Brevard County; as a past chair, he knows what the Chambers do for individual businesses, they go above and beyond; just recently he took part in two different organizations, one with the Melbourne Chamber Staycation, and with the Palm Bay Chamber Back to Business, and both have been a big help with his business right now and a great impact; if the Board was able to give money to the Chamber, they have staff too, and much of it is unemployed because they cannot afford to bring them back; businesses like his cannot pay and many of the businesses cannot pay their dues right now, and the Chamber does need funds to keep their staff going; and bringing their staff back, they will be able to do more outreach to the businesses to help businesses flourish and help them bring more of their staff back. He also mentioned as far as the restaurants, hotels, and bars, he would like to suggest an idea of helping them develop outdoor areas and maybe waive permits or help them with the building of their outdoor areas so more people could be seated, and in a more safe manner being outdoors.

Geraldine Blanchard, Melbourne, stated she is the owner of Global Tours and Travel for the past 25 years and she does not need to reiterate everything that has been said about the Chamber; she is there as a cheerleader of the Chambers as she remembers when she came here 25 years ago, not knowing a sole, came from the Middle-East with her husband to settle here and remembers walking to the Chamber; it is because of the Chamber that she is here 25 years later, and she is convinced of that; for the support that they have given her throughout the years and the small businesses are the back bone of the community and because of the her agency, she was able to support four or five families throughout the years; and she is there to tell the Board they are families, they live here, husbands, wives, and children of the community, and they need help. She further stated the Chamber is suffering just like she is, being a travel agent on hold right now; without the Chamber, she does not know where she would be because they give a lifeline as she calls it; she can still stay in power until the community reopens, and travel reopens, and she will be there thanks to the Chambers; she cannot say enough, and to believe her when she says that the Chamber is a necessity in the community and every effort is needed to keep the Chambers in the forefront and not put on the back burner; and she knows it is late so she will stop at that, but added to not forget that without a travel agent, people are on their own, so she will put in her two cents that Global Tourism is alive and well thanks to the Chamber.

Jennifer Metz, Cocoa Beach, stated she and her husband own a small business in downtown Cocoa Beach; they relocated here from California about three years ago and saw this great opportunity for helping enhance downtown Cocoa Beach; they bought a building, an old dive bar, and renovated it into a beautiful bar and lounge; as people know, bars were closed in March, and they had been open since July of last year, so they were not open a full year, closed for three months, open for three weeks, and now closed again; and what she can say is their employees have suffered an immense amount, especially with the unemployment issues, as she thinks one employee never got benefits, and after reopening, now has to reapply, and it is kind of horrifying. She also wanted to speak about not taking for granted little businesses like hers, as they do contribute to the society, the community they are in, and to taxes and revenues that are happening throughout the County; to suppose that people are going to be able to sort of sit idly by and not have any expenditures, is kind of unrealistic as it costs her almost as much to stay closed as it does to be open, and with no revenue, it will be more and more difficult to reopen; she is requesting the Board to consider putting money aside for the small businesses in Brevard, especially the really tiny ones, like them, as they only have 9 employees; she asked for help to keep the ability to put those people back to work; they want

to come back to work, and she wants to put them back to work; and as a side note, one of the Commissioners had said it was not like their business cannot just close if they are not getting the business, but the reality is all of them want to be open, they want to be doing their jobs, and they want to get the help that hopefully the CARES Act money would give them.

Chair Lober stated before she left, she could give her restaurant a plug.

Jennifer Metz stated it is Napa Beach Bubbles bar and they are not a restaurant, they only do craft cocktails, really good craft cocktails, probably the best old-fashioned in Brevard County, as well as beautiful wines from California West Coast and Bubbles is the name because she is a bubbles girl, and also sparkling wines and really awesome craft beers.

II.2. CARES Act Funding for Economic Support Programs Continued

Chair Lober stated that was it for cards, and asked what the Board wanted to do.

Commissioner Tobia stated he thought it was far too much to go into small business, however there is something on page four of four and that is a relatively minor expense of \$500,000, which is whether to establish a small business PPE support program; he does not think that requires all that much discussion, but it looks like each kit would contain 200 disposable masks, cloth masks, rubber gloves, sanitizers...

Chair Lober interjected he thought it sounded like a motion and he seconded it.

The Board approved CARES Act funding for PPE for Small Business Program (SMP) in the amount of \$500,000 to help companies directly and to encourage a safer re-opening as safely as possible, and to follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines; the PPE for SMP would support companies that employ 25 employees or less in specific industry segments that are heavily involved with public interaction; the businesses that would be eligible to receive PPE supplies are health care providers, childcare services and youth camps, museums and historical sites, amusement and recreation centers, independent restaurants, barber shops, beauty salons, nail salons, and personal care services; each kit would contain 200 disposable masks, a pack of reusable cloth masks, rubber gloves, and sanitizers; and application would be accepted until supplies are exhausted.

Result: Approved

Mover: John Tobia

Second: Bryan Lober

Ayes: Pritchett, Lober, Tobia, Smith, and Isnardi

Chair Lober asked Mr. Abbate in respect to the proposal from Career Source Brevard, if it was at a point it could be voted on, or if he still needed time to go through it.

Mr. Abbate replied no, that proposal was attached to the agenda, the stop-gap program which is the third program option that was given.

Chair Lober remarked that is a \$750,000 allocation with the idea being that the Board will see how they do with respect to that; he thinks they have done everything possible to trim the administrative costs; he has talked to more than one of their staff members and he knows they have done a lot of work on that, as he has done a good amount of work trying to work with them, and staff as well to tweak the initial proposal to what is there now; and if someone would

make a motion on that, he would be happy to second.

Motion by Commissioner Smith and second by Chair Lober to approve the CareerSource Brevard proposal to assist small businesses with 50 or less employees and unemployed, underemployed, and furloughed workers who have been impacted by COVID-19, with a short-term, Stop-Gap Employment Program utilizing \$750,000 of CARES Act funding.

Commissioner Pritchett stated she did not know what they trimmed it to, and she is sorry, but the last one she saw, the administrative costs were really high; her other question is what is the money going to be utilized for, as she needs to know if that is going towards keeping small businesses afloat; and the last time she heard it was for some training and stuff and she does not think that is within the personality, so she thinks the Board is going to have a discussion on this.

Mr. Abbate stated it would not be training, it would be for replacing employees as he believes they amended the agreement; and it is for replacing employees who have been laid off or furloughed, like the prior business owner, so it would be for those businesses that still have that situation in place, that they would be identifying the businesses that had that and either going back to those employees and using the funds to pay for that, or if those employees are no longer available, to go to their sources and use the outside temporary agency that would bring in a replacement employee for up to four months.

Commissioner Pritchett asked if the money goes to the businesses to pay for the employee cost.

Mr. Abbate replied no, they would actually be paying the employee, not giving the money to the businesses; and they would be paying for the employees directly, not giving the money to the businesses, as he understands it.

Commissioner Pritchett asked if they will be paying the salaries of the employee to go work for these companies.

Mr. Abbate replied they would actually be paying the third-party temporary agency.

Chair Lober stated the short of it is, he knows that their focus in terms of what they are looking to prioritize, is getting people that have been displaced or substantially underemployed as a result of COVID-19, in businesses that lost their workers as a result of COVID-19, which is kind of getting two birds with one stone with that sort of approach.

Commissioner Pritchett stated it is funny that Chair Lober is heading this one off because this is one with the biggest heartburn; and whatever he wants to do as she is probably not ready for Career Source.

Chair Lober stated he would like to see if the Board had the votes today, if not, then readdress it when she is more comfortable.

Commissioner Tobia stated he is pretty skeptical on some things, however, this is a public-private partnership and from the little research he did, the business must fall under Chapter 112 for transparency and ethics, so there is some recourse there; and he is comfortable voting for it at this time.

Commissioner Isnardi stated her initial concern was the administrative costs and she talked about that with Marci Murphy, Career Source President, and they are nominal compared to

where they were and the program ends, so they are not obligated beyond that and the employer is not if they are not able to get the business back up to speed.

Chair Lober stated he does not think there is a problem with Brevard County performing certain functions that are not in the normal repertoire, but this is what Career Source does and the cost for them to do it compared to the County doing it in-house, he does not see that the County would be any better off; the County might pay their employees the same, a little more, or a little less, that would do the actual job function the Career Source would be doing, but the fact is, they can do it more expeditiously and in a better way as that is what they do; the sad thing is, if looking at the funding that they got from the State and the Feds, it has been pitiful with respect to Coronavirus funds, so they are in a spot where they are trying to do everything they can, but their resources are so constrained; and he thinks this will make a big difference for them and a lot of families that end up getting buoyed by having folks put in jobs where many of them are going to continue on after this funding runs dry.

Commissioner Pritchett stated she had a meeting with Ms. Murphy yesterday and it was cancelled, so she is sorry, she just does not have the data, but if the Board is comfortable, then it can go through with it; and that is why she is going to withhold on it right now.

Chair Lober Called the Question and motion passed.

Chair Lober inquired if there was anything else that anyone wanted to address at this point; he thinks it is an interesting concept that has been proposed with respect to the non-profits and the other 501(C)'s, and he would be open to it but does not know where the others are at with it; he thinks there are certain non-profits and not-for-profits that perform really essential functions here in Brevard and he would hate to cut them out of the equation; and he is not saying that the Board should start buoying every non-profit that exists, but if it is something that otherwise, if it did not exist, would fall on the County for instance, he does not want to allow a non-profit or not-for-profit in that sort of a category, to fall through the cracks and not exist anymore, as it may be saving the County a few bucks now and shorting it in the long run.

Commissioner Pritchett stated she agreed, if they employ people and it is helping the economy; she wanted to throw out a thought and the Board will have to spend a lot of time on this; there are the small business grants that it is trying to get out and the Chambers have applied for some funds and to think about this; maybe it gives them the funds and they have to be the ones to figure out which small businesses they will be distributing it to, that way they would kind of be earning the money the Board would consider giving them; and she said just a thought that popped into her head when talking about administrative costs of getting the funds out and it might be an idea.

Commissioner Smith remarked the Chambers certainly do know who the businesses are and the go-getters.

Commissioner Pritchett stated it could not be just because they are members and they would have to look at the businesses, just a thought.

Chair Lober stated it is interesting, he was actually somewhat opposed to granting the Chambers directly any amount of funding, and he has spoken with them since and they have done a really good job of convincing him to change his position on that; he would just say if one was skeptical about it, just give them a chance and talk with them; and he thinks that they have some compelling arguments that are worth consideration, and if it does not change one's opinion, that is fine, but give them a shot.

Commissioner Tobia remarked as long as the Board would get a shot to explain the sanity of why it would not be the right direction as he has a whole list.

Chair Lober stated he would let him go through the whole list.

Commissioner Smith stated he read today that if a person is wearing a mask, they may want to keep it a while, because there is another swine flu that is in China and it has been transferring from the swine to people for about two years now; and it is not going from human to human yet but the Chinese scientists are concerned it might make that jump but, right now, it is only traveling from swine to people.

The Board approved the CareerSource Brevard proposal to assist small businesses with 50 or less employees and unemployed, underemployed, and furloughed workers who have been impacted by COVID-19, with a short-term, Stop-Gap Employment Program utilizing \$750,000 of CARES Act funding.

The Board approved the CareerSource Brevard proposal to assist small businesses with 50 or less employees and unemployed, underemployed, and furloughed workers who have been impacted by COVID-19, with a short-term, Stop-Gap Employment Program utilizing \$750,000 of CARES Act funding.

Result: Approved

Mover: Curt Smith

Second: Bryan Lober

Ayes: Lober, Tobia, Smith, and Isnardi

Nay: Pritchett

V. BOARD REPORTS

5. John Tobia, Commissioner District 3, Re: Board Report

Commissioner Tobia stated the previous weekend, the Board may recall a Ponce de Leon statue that got vandalized about murdering some native, which he does not support obviously; reason being is because he was not here to murder the folks, but that was not the issue and it is a very positive story; Monday morning Jim Liesenfelt, Assistant County Manager, was out there getting the paint off that statue, and it is wonderful that there would be someone that high up the ranks doing that, but what is even more amazing about that is that it was his week off; he wanted to let the Board know the dedication of staff that it has as that was way down in Melbourne Beach and had to be a 30 or 40 minute drive for him on his time to go get paint off; and he wanted to talk about a silver lining in the storm, there is a great staff there. He went on to say Mr. Liesenfelt did not call him, Parks and Recreation had given him a heads up that it had happened and he asked who was there; he did not ask for any credit, it just happened that he was there and Commissioner Tobia greatly appreciates him and the dedication of him and the rest of the staff that go above and beyond, even on their time off; and Mr. Abbate has chosen some really good folks to work for him.

Commissioner Isnardi remarked that was awesome; and she thanked Mr. Liesenfelt.

Mr. Liesenfelt stated he was just helping the Parks and Recreation guys.

7. Kristine Isnardi, Commissioner District 5, Re: Board Report

Commissioner Isnardi stated she thought the Board had touched on this issue before, talking

about the social distancing in the meetings and heard it from some of the public on probably both sides of the issue; she wants to somehow fix that as the Board allows staff and employees there, understandably why they are here; the public cannot face the Board when they talk and she thinks it needs to change that; she thinks it actually did pretty good though, when Commission Smith and herself had permission to return back to meetings, it was socially distanced; she thinks it could probably pull it off in the Chambers; and she asked Mr. Abbate if that was something he thought it could do.

Mr. Abbate replied it was up to the Board; and if it wanted to move back to that, the question would be whether it wanted to maintain the six feet social distancing.

Commissioner Isnardi replied of course.

Chair Lober stated he would like to maintain more than that, frankly.

Commissioner Isnardi stated the recommendation is six feet, and asked if the Board desired, could it go back to some sense of normalcy if it is all safe and following guidelines.

Chair Lober stated someone would have to go to the timeout box and that is the only issue, since there is no way to space six feet apart on the dais.

Commissioner Isnardi stated she would go in the timeout box as she liked it over there and was fine with it.

Commissioner Smith stated he has been there and it was like being in the bleachers.

Commissioner Isnardi stated she did get accused of not being at the meeting, though, since she could not be seen on the dais; maybe at the meeting Chair Lober could point out that they are there; and she wants the people to come in and face their Commission when they speak.

Chair Lober stated there could be a cardboard mock-up with an arrow pointing off to the side.

Commissioner Isnardi gave thanks to the staff for throwing together all this stuff at the last minute and logistically handling today; her message to people is socially distance, wash your hands, wear a mask going into places, do not touch your face, and be considerate of other people, as it is not a partisan issue, and never has been; she does not care who says it or who accuses it or if people use it as a political platform, it is wrong, but she thinks people have a responsibility to one another to make sure that they are safe and taking care of one another; and that is not as a health care provider, it is as a human being.

6. Curt Smith, Commissioner District 4, Re: Board Report

Commissioner Smith stated he has a helpful hint for not touching your face, early on in this process, he has a friend that is a doctor in an emergency room in Nashville, and he told him he could guarantee he would never touch his face again after he gave him this hint; and the doctor said to just image that everything that is touched, whether a pen, or the phone, and just image it covered in excrement.

Commissioner Isnardi remarked she thinks of that when she handles currency, thinking of where money has been; and carry hand sanitizers as a reminder to sanitize; and just be caring to other people as a person may be healthy and middle-aged without comorbidities, but people around may not be.

4. **Bryan Lober, Commissioner District 2, Chair, Re: Board Report**

Chair Lober asked Attorney Bentley to help him out as he did not know if the Board was at a juncture where it can address that or should it be pushed off.

Attorney Bentley replied to push it off and wait for written direction.

Chair Lober stated he was trying to get a couple things sorted out to see if he could get them addressed today; and he just asked folks, if they have not had a chance to speak with Lynda Weatherman, Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast President, to do so before the next meeting.

Commissioner Smith stated he was speaking with Bart Gaetjens, Area External Affairs Manager for Florida Power and Light, and he wanted to remind him that the Board should start thinking about, and getting the word out to the public that they should start getting the storm season plans and supplies ready as it is the middle of storm season.

Upon consensus of the Board, the meeting adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

ATTEST:



RACHEL M. SADOFF, CLERK



BRYAN ANDREW LOBER, CHAIR
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA