

Brevard County Board of County Commissioners

2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Viera, FL 32940



Minutes

Monday, April 13, 2020

12:05 PM

Special Meeting

Commission Chambers

I. CALL TO ORDER 12:05 P.M.

Present: Commissioner District 1 Rita Pritchett, Commissioner District 2 Bryan Lober, Commissioner District 3 John Tobia, Commissioner District 4 Curt Smith, and Commissioner District 5 Kristine Isnardi

II. Discuss Commissioners consideration of Policy Group's recommendation.

Chair Lober welcomed Ms. Stahl to speak.

Maria Stahl, Brevard County Florida Department of Health Administrator (FDOH), referenced the latest Brevard County Emergency Management Dashboard report as of 11:00 a.m., stating Brevard had 140 cases; there were five deaths, but in actuality there were six deaths; One of them was in Brevard's hospitals but was an Orange County resident, so it did not get reported; it was reported in Orange County's numbers; currently as of this morning, there are 13 COVID-19 patients in Brevard's hospitals; there are six patients in ICU; seven on regular isolation floors; four currently on meds; Brevard's hospitals are doing very well right now; the priorities of the Health Department continue to be: contact tracing for all of the cases, long term cares, the vulnerable population, and testing First Responders; she said that when she mentions long term cares, she means that some of those cases are in long term care; she cannot state which long term cares; some are residents, and some are staff spread out amongst several long term cares. She noted the Commissioners probably heard the Governor mention the large testing sites. She said there are three large testing sites going on in Florida; they are in Miami, Orlando, and Jacksonville; those three sites are doing a little bit more expanded testing; and they are doing asymptomatic testing for the contacts cases. She added the messaging of the FDOH continues to be: social distancing and stay at home; and she asked the Commissioners if they had any questions.

Chair Lober asked Commissioner Smith and Commissioner Isnardi, via speaker phone, if they had any questions.

Commissioners Isnardi and Smith stated they did not have any questions.

Chair Lober thanked Ms. Stahl for coming to the meeting and giving an update; he stated this meeting was called for discussion of a recommendation of the Policy Group to the County Commission to promote social distancing in businesses; he skipped all the whereas clauses and stated the Policy Group recommended, 10-0 with all present voting, to have the Board issue a proclamation putting forth best practices to businesses, including the following: all employees and patrons practice social distancing by staying at least six feet apart; group meetings, trainings, and other gatherings are to be limited to 10 persons or less; occupancy should be limited to no more than 30 percent of the maximum allowable capacity fire code for non-residential, non-medical, non-lodging uses; lastly businesses should install appropriate signage, floor markings, or other such means as may be necessary to remind customers and employees of the importance of social distancing at entry and exit points, check-out points, staging areas and the like. He added that nothing in this recommendation is subject to any sort of penalty or punishment if businesses fail to do it; the recommendation is simply aspirational goals to suggest for businesses to encourage the social distancing as the State and Federal government are doing in keeping with that; those that follow it will keep people safer and those that do not are certainly

considered in changing their mind to follow it if and when they choose to do so; he inquired if the Board had any discussion in respect to the recommendation. Commissioner Pritchett stated she really liked this recommendation and was able to listen in on the conversation; and she thinks that this is a good promotion and a good word out to the community.

Commissioner Isnardi stated she thought the recommendation was great and that they were not going to ask the local law enforcement to try to enforce it by putting punitive consequences on the recommendation; Commissioner Isnardi said she knew a lot of these recommendations are already out there so there is definitely no harm in getting the message out.

Chair Lober asked for a commissioner to make a motion to authorize him to sign a proclamation containing those recommendations without any sort of a penalty clause or penalty provision; and he did a roll call for the vote since Commissioner Smith and Isnardi were voting via telephone conference.

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Chair Lober asked for a Commissioner to make a motion to authorize him to sign a proclamation containing those recommendations without any sort of a penalty clause or penalty provision; and he did a roll call for the vote since Commissioners Smith and Isnardi were voting via telephone conference.

The Board authorized Chair Lober to sign a Proclamation stating that all employees and patrons practice social distancing by at least six feet apart; group meetings, trainings, and all other gatherings are to be limited to 10 persons or less; occupancy should be limited to no more than 30 percent of the maximum allowable capacity fire code for non-residential, non-medical, non-lodging uses; and businesses should install appropriate signage, floor markings, or other such means as may be necessary to remind customers and employees of the importance of social distancing at entry and exit points, check-out points, staging areas, and the like.

Result: APPROVED

Mover: Rita Pritchett

Second: Bryan Lober

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

5. John Tobia, Commissioner District 3

Commissioner Tobia expressed appreciation to Chair Lober for his humble dedication over the past few weeks as Commission Chair and Policy Group Chair; he has been an objective voice to all media outlets during this crisis; information has flowed transparently throughout the entire Policy Group; he has handled this with brevity and respect for the staff and fellow commissioners' time; and the Chair has been a unifying voice between the Board and the Policy Group, this was a Herculean task. He added the Policy Group was only intended for short-term emergencies and not a situation in which the Board and the group are meeting concurrently for an extended period; he said that for this reason he would like to make an informal motion to accept the gracious offer made by the Policy Group Chairman, Chair Lober, on March 27t, 2020 when he said quote, "Anyone on the Board that would like the Chair to the Policy Group, I'd be happy to cede the reigns. It's a legitimate offer. If you want to take it at some point in the future during this local State of Emergency I intend to second it as well;" he stated under the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP), it

would appear that Commissioner Pritchett would be the most sensible candidate to act as Chair; and he can only hope the individual chosen will approach this with a grace and care that Chair Lober has.

Chair Lober stated he would go ahead and second it but asked Attorney Bentley if procedurally he could appoint someone to serve as Chair of the Policy Group.

Eden Bentley, County Attorney, responded that the Policy Group Section has a specific order, and if Commissioner Lober is not the Chair of the Policy Group then the Vice-Chair is next in order; then it goes in ascending order of the Districts.

Chair Lober inquired if in order to save the motion, if Commissioner Tobia would choose to withdraw it, if could he appoint Commissioner Pritchett.

Attorney Bentley replied yes.

Chair Lober asked Commissioner Tobia if that was sufficient, and stated he would be happy to do that.

Commissioner Tobia expressed appreciation for all the work Chair Lober had done and stated yes, it would be sufficient.

Chair Lober remarked that he did not have a gavel to make it look formal, he appointed Commissioner Pritchett, Chair of Policy Group at this point: Chair Lober assured her it would be fine, and he had no doubt.

Commissioner Tobia mentioned he had one more item to discuss; he stated last week the Board voted to recommend to the Policy Group that the order requiring lodgers to have a note from their employer or doctor in part due to impact on victims of domestic violence and the Policy Group failed to formerly consider this recommendation through a vote. He informed the Board that he reached out to several stake holders who deal with domestic violence to get their expert input on whether, as Chair Lober stated, requesting the victims of domestic violence to get a note from their doctor or employer before staying in a hotel is quote, "a red herring," and he added he suspected the issue, unfortunately, is very real as one can see in the emails he was to pass out. He passed out several excerpts of emails; he quoted from an email from Dr. Karen Oehme, Director of the Institute for Family Violence Studies at the College of Social Work at *Florida State University (FSU)*, "Requiring survivors to take an extra step of revealing their victimization to their employer is an undue burden in my opinion. Requiring them to go to a doctor's office and involve potential exposure to COVID-19 takes health provider time away from other patients and should not be required to obtain safe accommodations." He went on to further quote another email from Jennifer Dritt, Director of Florida Council Against Sexual Violence, "We believe that victims of domestic violence who under the current state-wide Stay at Home Order are at home with their abusers are in greater danger if they do not have access to emergency shelters at hotel. And yes, I absolutely do believe in requiring a doctor's note put victims at additional risk. Local governments should do everything possible to make emergency shelters for victims as accessible as possible." He quoted from Carol Wick, the former Director of Orange County Commission of Domestic Violence and Child Abuse; former Vice President of Abuse Intervention and Monitoring; and Harvard educated, "The bottom line is that any attempt to require them to identify themselves as survivors of domestic violence drastically increases the danger and the likelihood of a subsequent

homicide.” He stated he would like to make a motion to move the Policy Chair to inform the Policy Group of the Recommendations that the Board made with this added expert testimony.

Chair Lober stated he had a few thoughts with respect to Commissioner Tobia’s statements; this was not something added to the Agenda; although he appreciated the input, especially from people who have a degree of expertise or work at a particular sector, and he requested that in the future if Commissioner Tobia distributes the emails a couple days in advance. He noted that the emails were from several days ago; he stated that if the emails had been distributed a couple days in advance it would have enabled others to review them and determine if anything perhaps was lost in translation or absent context; and it is hard for him to do that with a packet that was given to him at a meeting. He stated that no one has asked anyone to reveal their victimization to their employer, but he does know, and can safely say, that he does know at least one overflow domestic violence shelter in the County that is closed; the reason it was closed was not because of COVID-19, but because there was not enough demand for them; he noted he had spoken with his colleagues that work for the Department of Children and Families (DCF) and that citizens are not being turned away. He went on to say that nothing he heard or in the brief amount of time he had to skim the emails suggests anyone has been turned away that is a victim or potential victim of domestic violence; he also stated he spoke with law enforcement including the Brevard County Sheriff; he said everyone understands with respect to the orders that have been put in place that the goal is not to punish or to hinder domestic violence victims from doing something to obtain safety; if there is a recommendation that is made to the Policy Group talk to DCF and ask them what the numbers are; what the shelter situation is with respect to whether more people can be accommodated; and he said he would ask if anyone to their knowledge has been turned away. He stated that unless something has changed since he has spoken with others, he thinks the answer is going to be one-sided; it would be great to say if one loves children to do this, or if one loves puppies do that, or if one love kittens do this, or if one wants to help the elderly do this; but if one is not really helping them, and all one is doing is creating a massive loophole that essentially undermines the protections that were put in place by the Board’s recommendation by the Policy Group’s implementation of that recommendation he does not think it put the county in a better spot. He remarked with that being said he would still support whatever the formal decisions are, but he would make sure all the due diligence is done and that they do not do something impulsively based on information that is sprung on the Board at the last minute.

Commissioner Pritchett inquired whether it would be possible if in this situation if someone could just provide proof they are a Brevard County resident.

Commissioner Tobia stated no.

Commissioner Pritchett stated that as a female if one is in an abusive situation; she does not know how men handle it; but when one is in one of those situations a victim usually does not tell anybody. She added she would not go to a shelter; she would probably try to take the kids and go to somewhere safe to let everything cool off for a while; there is a strong point with that because one does not want to make a lot of racket over it, because a person in that situation does not think like everyone thinks when one has been victimized a long time; one gets protective and tries to close down and get quiet; and she stated this could be something. She inquired how they could do it to protect people that are in that situation, because she agreed that if she showed up

and had this going on, she would not feel like telling them she was about to get beat up at home or that she was going to pull out a gun and kill the guy; she would not want to have that conversation; and usually when one goes through this it takes a long time to call the police, because one feels all alone. She indicated she agrees this is an issue that has been brought up; she believes they will have to work something out, but she did not know why a Brevard County resident in a situation she guesses whether it is legal or not; that she does not understand why it is illegal and that is illogical to her. She posed the question how to fix this so that if one has a real situation like that he/she is not having to be victimized then also by the virus.

Chair Lober mentioned there were two things; number one, he said there is a degree of officer discretion and hotelier discretion that is involved; his advice to hoteliers, he had one in Rockledge reach out to him, based on the reception there were mixed messages coming from the County Commission and Policy Group on this particular issue; he called Brenda Fettrow, Rockledge City Manager, specifically about this as well; he actually spoke to the Sheriff's office as well; and the advice he gave the hoteliers is if they have a question, they are welcome to contact the police department, the municipality, or alternatively Brevard County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) to let them know what their concerns are. He added he did not think any law enforcement agency is going to interpret what the Board put forth in a way that is contrary or could be contrary; to the State's Executive Order which he believes specifically allows for them to stay; he suggested that when one looks at the fact that the issue was not taken up; it was not because it was not discussed; it did not make it to a vote because none of the 10, all of whom were present, made the motion because there was concern. He went on to say there were concerns from BCSO, specifically Sheriff Ivey had concerns about enforcement; and he wanted his legal staff to look at this as well.

Commissioner Pritchett inquired whether the Board heard back from Sheriff Ivey.

Chair Lober responded not yet.

Commissioner Pritchett asked for affirmation that Sheriff Ivey was going to come back.

Chair Lober replied yes; he stated that he talked with Sheriff Ivey about an hour ago, and he was not ready as of an hour ago.

Commissioner Pritchett replied that she never made good last minute decisions and needs time to think things through; she said she was interested to see if Sheriff Ivey came back with some suggestions.

Chair Lober replied Sheriff Ivey had not yet; he thinks there are certain problems that are beyond the Board's ability to solve as human beings or however one looks at it; he said this is one where if there really is an issue with respect to people being turned away, everything he has been hearing suggests there is not; Chair Lober said if there really was an issue he would understand the direction the Board is going with respect to this. He recommended to reach out to Sheriff Ivey, because he has been looking at this, to see where specifically he is at with it; he added Jim McKnight, the City Manager for Cocoa Beach, was going to have legal staff look at this as well because the City of Cocoa Beach had law enforcement concerns as well on the Cocoa Beach side, the Cocoa Beach Police Department; he recommended the Board talk to them, because certainly law enforcement agencies if anything are going to err on the side of being protective of domestic violence victims so if the agencies have a particular mind of what

is and is not reasonable that would carry a lot weight for him. He reiterated that it was Commissioner Pritchett's call about how she would approach it; and he recommends that she be very careful.

Commissioner Pritchett asked if there was any way that the Policy Group could make it so that a person from Brevard County is allowed to check in to a hotel in Brevard County.

Chair Lober stated he had concerns over it.

Attorney Bentley responded that there were some concerns but not from a legal standpoint; she had been talking to the City of Cocoa Beach attorney and the BCSO's attorney; she stated both attorneys are trying to come up with a solution to this; she thought everyone was trying to find a way to let them check-in and not create a big hole in the system.

Commissioner Pritchett interjected if that would work it would solve all the Board's problems.

Attorney Bentley advised that she talked with both the City of Cocoa Beach Attorney and the BCSO's attorney, and they were both looking at it; she stated Ashley Moody, State of Florida Attorney General, wanted to get samples from around the State; and on account of Good Friday there was a slow response time so that is why there is a bit of delay there on her end.

Commissioner Pritchett asked Commissioner Tobia if he agreed that would solve the issue by allowing Brevard County residents to check-in to hotels.

Commissioner Tobia inquired about the probability on finding, he stated they have a Public Health Director that was able to draw that direct link between, as of a couple meetings ago, and if she would be able to put those links in the chain together.

Attorney Bentley responded that the nation is in a pandemic and had not had one in 102 years, and there are not a lot of case laws on this topic; it would make sense from a scientific standpoint with the testimony of Ms. Stahl. She added the Board could possibly get some additional information from her at the Policy Group level to support that concept, especially from the domestic violence perspective, because that is another Public Health issue that the Board could tie the two together.

Commissioner Tobia stated that the Board received a lot of flak from elected officials who absolutely have the right to do that, whether that is a responsible thing to do, he did not know; he showed the Board the *State of Florida COVID-19 Department of Health Mandatory Self-Isolation Vehicle Travel* form; he said it was a glaring loophole that they were discussing; he stated that the State had self-certification; and the State is asking people who enter from outside to self-certify. He remarked that the self-certification that Attorney Bentley was able to go through added a penalty above what the State is already doing; creating a felony on top of the misdemeanor; he continued if the Board believed the solution, while not perfect, is not good it certainly is one level of extra protection above what the State is providing; he displayed the form remarking that it requires a signature at the bottom of it stating that failure to fill out the form is a second degree misdemeanor. He went on to say if one looks at the form that Attorney Bentley provided to the Board it says that is a penalty, a felony; and that the County's form would be more stringent than that of what the State is currently doing.

Chair Lober stated it was interesting to have this sprung on the meeting; he wished he had the advantage of seeing this prior since he doubted this just came up a few minutes ago or that Commissioner Tobia became aware of it a few minutes ago; he noted he looked at the form and said it was tough to see what enforcement mechanisms the State has; although he had a few seconds to glance at the form Commissioner Tobia provided he certainly would advise the FDOH, to someone coming in; the form looks like it would have address information, the purpose of their trip, which is something one would not want to have locally, which would enable at least the possibility of enforcement; he thought there was an article in the local news sources a couple days ago about the constitutionality and whether there was some statutory basis for judges to keep people absent of bond if they violate self-isolation orders, which in itself suggests they have a mechanism policing that and enforcing it. He stated he offered \$20 the last time Commissioner Tobia brought this up and no one took it up; he now has \$50 if Commissioner Tobia could tell Chair Lober how his proposal could be realistically enforced.

Commissioner Tobia remarked that he did not go to law school and he does not pretend that he went to law school; he said he appreciated Chair Lober's offer, but Chair Lober could give the money to Attorney Bentley. He added he was not a criminal defense attorney or anything; he asked Attorney Bentley if it can be assumed, if it can be proven, that someone perjured themselves and hoped it could be; and he asked if there was a way to prove perjury.

Attorney Bentley responded by saying it was small and it was just like any other situation where there is a complaint, an investigation, and then it has to be proven.

Commissioner Tobia asked if there had been cases where someone has been found guilty of perjury in the State of Florida.

Attorney Bentley replied yes, even in this County.

Chair Lober asked Attorney Bentley if there had been cases which she was aware in which people have self-certified that they are in compliance with the law where they have done so under the pain of perjury and been subsequently convicted of perjury. Attorney Bentley replied she did not have one right at the tip of her fingers, but it was a matter of proof as in all cases; she further stated the investigation would reveal the facts and then one has to deal with it from there.

Chair Lober expressed his concern about what exactly would be investigated if the traveler does not have to select a reason; he added the person filling out the form is basically giving a blanket statement stating he/she is not violating the law; he noted if someone signed the form and had a bracelet on their wrist indicating they had COVID-19, one could not disprove anything the person signing the form had done; and he remarked that if they are out on the beach they could say they are taking a break from what they are here to do which is a lawful purpose and not to worry about what it is because someone does not have a right to ask them about it.

Commissioner Tobia stated that if the Board was to look at the form, which has been out for quite some time; he expected everyone to do their research and the Commissioners can file a discovery with his office if they would choose to do so; and he thought that was a legal term that he saw on the television show, *LA Law* or

something.

Chair Lober interjected they were not going to watch it.

Commissioner Tobia stated he did not mind putting "Purpose of the trip: business or pleasure" on the Brevard travel form; that if the traveler circles pleasure then the County kicks them out; and he said he had no problem with that. He went on to say that his point is the State has less of a penalty and it seems to be working, and he wanted to add a penalty on top of it; he stated that Chair Lober's argument is the felony does not work; and he did not mind getting rid of the felony and reducing it down to the misdemeanor which is sufficient to the State.

Chair Lober stated that one could make it anything from literally being slapped on the wrist to being executed and it would not make a difference if it is not enforceable; he stated the penalty was irrelevant if the penalty is never going to be reached, if the penalty is simply to float it out there as a hypothetical that will never in the time that it is put in place ever be realized or even potentially realized, it does not matter what it is; with this he had no preference whether a misdemeanor's set of ramifications or punishments versus felony punishments because it makes no difference; and he thinks they are getting to a better spot when one actually has them identify the purpose of the trip, but if the traveler is here for business they should have to produce something to evidence that. He went on to say it should be the same thing if they are here for medical purposes; they do not need to know what those medical purposes are, but they should have to produce something to justify and to prove that.

Commissioner Tobia reiterated that he was not an attorney; he inquired how the enforceability of the form be any different than the enforceability of the note that is currently in place; he further inquired if Attorney Bentley still needed the further investigation she had mentioned earlier.

Attorney Bentley replied it was the same process: complaint, investigation, and proof at trial.

Chair Lober stated the list of information asked for on the travel form had a lot to base the potential enforcement on rather than what the County had; he also asked Attorney Bentley if there were items that are asked for in the form including items that he read off that were not requested than what was drafted or proposed by Commissioner Tobia at the most recent Board meeting.

Attorney Bentley replied there were additional items listed, and they could be added; she suggested they could convert the form to apply to the situation.

Commissioner Pritchett remarked that it sounded like it might not be a bad idea; she stated that the hoteliers already ask for this information; hoteliers ask for guests' car tag information and everything; she thought that maybe if they were getting to a place where they have a consideration; she thought all the Commissioners were trying to get to the same destination; she declared that Commissioners do not want tourists coming here right now and citizens are trying to maintain their own communities; she believes everyone is trying to get there, and is not going to be perfect; she thinks what the Commissioners are trying to do now is not have any unintended consequences to where they are having another problem; and she added that if the Commissioners could come to some sort of an idea where they are able to protect the vulnerable group

in society in the community and still get this done she will listen. She noted she was interested in hearing what Commissioners Isnardi and Smith in Cyber land have to say, too.

Chair Lober addressed Commissioner Tobia first and said he would address Cyber land next.

Commissioner Tobia thanked Chair Lober and apologized to Attorney Bentley for having to ask another question this time in reference to *Marcy's Law*; he stated he was sure that Attorney Bentley was familiar with Amendment 6; it had to deal with the disclosure of crime victims and domestic violence was covered under that. He asked Attorney Bentley what impact would that have on a self-certification as to whether or not it ever becomes public record; whether or not the abuser would have access to any of that information; and how would she go about informing the hotelier as to whether or not that would fall within that provision or not. He went on to say he once again did not have the answer and that was why he was asking Attorney Bentley, and he apologized for having to ask her.

Attorney Bentley stated she would have to look at the law and check that; she added public records issues, so long as it is still held by the hotelier, is not a public record but once law enforcement comes and gets a copy of it then it is a public record so then they run into that problem; and she also stated that the prior version was looking for law enforcement to be able to obtain this document from or whatever document they end up with from the hotels, so there is a crossover there.

Commissioner Tobia thanked Attorney Bentley.

Chair Lober agreed with Attorney Bentley that it would not be record when it was maintained by a private entity like a hotel, but as for her comment about it becoming public record as soon as it is given to law enforcement, he wondered if it would be exempt if it was given in furtherance of an investigation as to some crime during the pendency of that investigation.

Attorney Bentley thought it might be exempt depending on how they wrote it so she therefore said they need to look at all steps of this before they say it is or it is not; and they need to actually prepare the document and go through the checklist.

Commissioner Isnardi stated it is difficult to ask the local area; she would love to see it for Brevard residents if only they could do it legally, but it is difficult to ask; the State's own self-certification is less punitive than what they are asking local business to do, especially if the occupancy rate is between five percent and 10 percent now as it is. Commissioner Smith stated he agreed with Commissioner Isnardi.

Chair Lober informed Commissioner Pritchett that she has her work cut out for her; he stated that he thinks Commissioner Pritchett will have an interesting time weaving through this.

Commissioner Pritchett agreed with Chair Lober and said she thinks so too.

Chair Lober asked Commissioner Tobia if he had anything further.

Commissioner Pritchett interjected and asked the Board if it was comfortable as long as

they are trying to maintain victims of abuse and still maybe do the form and then add the little caveat; and she asked if they were wanting to merge the two forms.

Commissioner Smith stated that might be reasonable to him.

Chair Lober stated his one and only concern is its enforceability; as long as it is enforceable there is a very high chance he would support anything as long as it is enforceable.

Commissioner Pritchett asked Chair Lober if she should check with Sheriff Ivey.

Chair Lober said he would appreciate it.

Commissioner Pritchett inquired if she is allowed to talk to the Commissioners during Policy Meetings by text.

Attorney Bentley replied no, because they would be voting on it.

Chair Lober said no, unfortunately; he added that he worked with Legal Aide for probably the better part of decade representing domestic violence victims in petitions for protection, petitions for injunctions of protections for both domestic violence and stalking; they have a lot of people, and he hates to add any more to their busy workload, but they have a lot of people that have a degree of expertise on this as well so she could reach out to Rob Johnson over there; and Pam Brass is no longer there so, unfortunately she cannot reach out to her, but they have a lot of good folks too, so if she does want to talk to a different segment that has their interest at heart she may want to give them a call.

Commissioner Pritchett stated okay.

Commissioner Tobia expressed appreciation to Chair Lober for his humble dedication over the past few weeks as the Commission Chair and the Policy Group Chair; he stated he has been an objective voice to all media outlets during this crisis; information has flowed transparently throughout the entire Policy Group; he has handled this with brevity and respect for the staff and for his fellow Commissioners time; and he has been a unifying voice between the Board and the Policy Group with this Herculean task. He added the Policy Group was only intended for short-term emergencies and not for a situation in which the Board and the Group are meeting concurrently for an extended period; for that reason he would like to make an informal motion to accept the gracious offer made by the Policy Group Chair on March 27, 2020, when he said, "Anyone on the Board that would like the Chair to the Policy Group, I'd be happy to cede the reigns. It's a legitimate offer. If you want to take it at some point in the future during this local State of Emergency, I intend to second it as well."; he stated under the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP), it would appear that Commissioner Pritchett would be the most sensible candidate to act as Chair; and he can only hope the individual chosen will approach this with the grace and the care that Chair Lober has.

Chair Lober stated he would go ahead and second it, but he asked Eden Bentley, County Attorney, if procedurally he could appoint someone to serve as Chair of the Policy Group.

Attorney Bentley, responded that the Policy Group has a specific order, and if Commissioner Lober is not the Chair of the Policy Group then the Vice Chair is next in order; and then it goes in ascending order of the Districts.

Chair Lober inquired if in order to save the motion, if Commissioner Tobia would choose to

withdraw it, and if could he appoint Commissioner Pritchett.

Attorney Bentley replied yes.

Chair Lober asked Commissioner Tobia if that was sufficient, and stated he would be happy to do that.

Commissioner Tobia expressed appreciation for all the work Chair Lober had done; and he responded yes, it would be sufficient.

Chair Lober remarked that he did not have a gavel to make it look formal, he appointed Commissioner Pritchett, Chair of Policy Group at this point; and he assured Commissioner Pritchett it would be fine, and he had no doubts.

Commissioner Tobia mentioned having one more item to discuss; he stated last week the Board voted to recommend to the Policy Group that the order requiring lodgers to have a note from their employer or doctor in part due to impact on victims of domestic violence; but the Policy Group failed to formerly consider this recommendation through a vote. He informed the Board that he reached out to several stakeholders who deal with domestic violence to get their expert input on whether, as Chair Lober stated, requesting the victims of domestic violence to get a note from their doctor or employer before staying in a hotel is, "a red herring,"; and he added he suspected the issue is very real as one can see in the emails that he is going to pass out. He provided the Board with several excerpts of emails; he quoted from an email from Dr. Karen Oehme, Director of the Institute for Family Violence Studies at the College of Social Work at Florida State University (FSU), "Requiring survivors to take an extra step of revealing their victimization to their employer is an undue burden in my opinion. Requiring them to go to a doctor's office and involve potential exposure to COVID-19 takes health providers time away from other patients and should not be required to obtain safe accommodations." He went on to further quote another email from Jennifer Dritt, Director of Florida Council Against Sexual Violence, "We believe that victims of domestic violence who under the current Statewide Stay at Home Order are at home with their abusers are in greater danger if they do not have access to emergency shelters at hotel. And yes, I absolutely do believe in requiring a doctor's note put victims at additional risk. Local governments should do everything possible to make emergency shelters for victims as accessible as possible." He quoted from Carol Wick, the former Director of Orange County Commission of Domestic Violence and Child Abuse; former Vice President of Abuse Intervention and Monitoring; and Harvard educated, "The bottom line is that any attempt to require them to identify themselves as survivors of domestic violence drastically increases the danger and the likelihood of a subsequent homicide." He stated he would like to make a motion to move the Policy Group Chair to inform the Policy Group of the recommendations that the Board made with this added expert testimony.

Chair Lober advised he has a few thoughts with respect to Commissioner Tobia's statements; this was not something added to the Agenda; although he appreciated the input, and especially from people who have a degree of expertise or work at a particular sector; and he requested that in the future Commissioner Tobia distribute the emails a couple days in advance. He noted that the emails were from several days ago; and if the emails had been distributed a couple days in advance it would have enabled others to review them and determine if anything perhaps was lost in translation or absent context; and it is hard for him to do that with a packet that was given to him at a meeting. He stated no one has asked anyone to reveal their victimization to their employer, but he does know, and can safely say, that he does know at least one overflow domestic violence shelter in the County that is closed; the reason it was closed was not because of COVID-19, but because there was not enough demand for them;

and he noted he had spoken with his colleagues that work for the Department of Children and Families (DCF) and that citizens are not being turned away. He went on to say that nothing he heard or in the brief amount of time he had to skim the emails suggests anyone has been turned away that is a victim or potential victim of domestic violence; he also stated he spoke with law enforcement including the Brevard County Sheriff who said everyone understands with respect to the orders that have been put in place that the goal is not to punish or to hinder domestic violence victims from doing something to obtain safety; if there is a recommendation that is made to the Policy Group to talk to DCF and ask them what the numbers are and what the shelter situation is with respect to whether more people can be accommodated; and he asked if anyone to their knowledge has been turned away. He stated unless something has changed since he has spoken with others, he thinks the answer is going to be one-sided; and it would be great to say if one loves children to do this, or if one loves puppies do that, or if one love kittens do this, or if one wants to help the elderly do this; but if one is not really helping them, and all one is doing is creating a massive loophole that essentially undermines the protections that were put in place by the Board's recommendation by the Policy Group's implementation of that recommendation he does not think it put the County in a better spot. He remarked with that being said he would still support whatever the formal decisions are, but he would make sure all the due diligence is done and that they do not do something impulsively based on information that is sprung on the Board at the last minute.

Commissioner Pritchett inquired whether it would be possible in this situation if someone could just provide proof they are a Brevard County resident.

Commissioner Tobia replied no.

Commissioner Pritchett stated that as a female if one is in an abusive situation she does not know how men handle it; but when one is in one of those situations a victim usually does not tell anybody. She added she would not go to a shelter she would probably try to take the kids and go to somewhere safe to let everything cool off for a while; there is a strong point with that because one does not want to make a lot of racket over it, because a person in that situation does not think like everyone else thinks when one has been victimized for a long time; one gets protective and tries to close down and get quiet; and this could be something. She inquired how they could do it to protect people that are in that situation, because she agreed that if she showed up and had this going on, she would not feel like telling them she was about to get beat up at home or that she was going to pull out a gun and kill the guy; she would not want to have that conversation; and usually when one goes through this it takes a long time to call the police, because one feels all alone. She indicated she agrees this is an issue that has been brought up; but she believes they will have to work something out, and she does not understand why it is illegal, and that is illogical to her. She posed the question of how to fix this so that if one has a real situation like that he or she is not having to be victimized then also by the virus.

Chair Lober mentioned there were two things; number one, he said there is a degree of officer discretion and hotelier discretion that is involved; his advice to hoteliers that had reached out to him in Rockledge, based on the reception were mixed messages coming from the County Commission and Policy Group on this particular issue; he called Brenda Fettrow, City of Rockledge Manager, specifically about this; he actually spoke to the Brevard County Sheriff Office (BCSO) and the advice given to hoteliers is if they have a question, they are welcome to contact the police department, the municipality, or alternatively BCSO to let them know what their concerns are. He added he did not think any law enforcement agency is going to interpret what the Board put forth in a way that is contrary or could be contrary to the State's Executive Order, which he believes specifically allows for them to stay; he suggested that when one looks at the fact the issue was not taken up; it was not because it was not discussed; but it did not

make it to a vote because none of the 10, all of whom were present, made the motion because there was concern. He went on to say there were concerns from BCSO, specifically by Wayne Ivey, Sheriff, who was concerned about enforcement and wanted his legal staff to look at this as well.

Commissioner Pritchett inquired whether the Board heard back from Sheriff Ivey.

Chair Lober responded not yet.

Commissioner Pritchett asked for affirmation that Sheriff Ivey was going to come back.

Chair Lober replied yes; he stated that he talked with Sheriff Ivey about an hour ago; and he was not ready as of an hour ago.

Commissioner Pritchett mentioned she never made good last minute decisions and needs time to think things through; and stated she was interested in seeing if Sheriff Ivey came back with some suggestions.

Chair Lober replied Sheriff Ivey had not yet replied; he stated he thinks there are certain problems that are beyond the Board's ability to solve as human beings this is one where if there really is an issue with respect to people being turned away, everything he has been hearing suggests there is not; and if there really was an issue he would understand the direction the Board is going with respect to this. He recommended to reach out to Sheriff Ivey, because he has been looking at this, to see where specifically he is at with it; he added Jim McKnight, City of Cocoa Beach Manager, was going to have legal staff look at this as well because the City of Cocoa Beach has law enforcement concerns as well on the Cocoa Beach side with the Cocoa Beach Police Department; he recommended for the Board to talk to them, because certainly law enforcement agencies if anything are going to err on the side of being protective of domestic violence victims so if the agencies have a particular in mind of what is and is not reasonable, would carry a lot weight for him. He reiterated that it was Commissioner Pritchett's call about how she would approach it; and he recommends that she be very careful.

Commissioner Pritchett asked if there was any way that the Policy Group could make it so that a person from Brevard County is allowed to check into a hotel in Brevard County.

Chair Lober remarked he had concerns over it.

Attorney Bentley responded there were some concerns but not from a legal standpoint; she stated she has been talking to the City of Cocoa Beach attorney and the BCSO's attorney; both attorneys are trying to come up with a solution to this; but she thought everyone was trying to find a way to let them check-in and not create a big hole in the system.

Commissioner Pritchett inquired if that would work and if that would solve all the Board's problems.

Attorney Bentley replied that she talked with both the City of Cocoa Beach attorney and the BCSO's attorney, and they were both looking at it; she stated Ashley Moody, State of Florida Attorney General, wanted to get samples from around the State; and on account of Good Friday there was a slow response time so that is why there is a bit of delay there on her end.

Commissioner Pritchett asked Commissioner Tobia if he agreed that would solve the issue by allowing Brevard County residents to check into hotels.

Commissioner Tobia inquired about the probability on finding; he stated they have a Public Health Director that was able to draw that direct link between; and if she would be able to put those links of the chain together.

Attorney Bentley responded that the nation is in a pandemic and has not had one in 102 years, and there are not a lot of case laws on this topic; and she stated it would make sense from a scientific standpoint with the testimony of Ms. Stahl. She added the Board could possibly get some additional information from Ms. Stahl at the Policy Group level to support that concept, especially from the domestic violence perspective, because that is another Public Health issue that the Board could tie the two together.

Commissioner Tobia stated that the Board received a lot of flak from elected officials who absolutely have the right to do that, whether that is a responsible thing to do, he did not know; he provided the Board the State of Florida COVID-19 Department of Health Mandatory Self-Isolation Vehicle Travel form; he stated it was a glaring loophole that they were discussing; the State had self-certification and is asking people who enter from outside to self-certify; and that self-certification that Attorney Bentley was able to go through added a penalty above what the State is already doing, creating a felony on top of the misdemeanor. He continued to say if the Board believed the solution, while not perfect, is not good it certainly is one level of extra protection above what the State is providing; the form at the bottom of it stating that failure to fill out the form is a second degree misdemeanor; if one looks at the form that Attorney Bentley provided to the Board it says there is a felony penalty; and that the County's form would be more stringent than that of what the State is currently doing.

Chair Lober stated it was interesting to have this sprung during the meeting and he wished he had the advantage of seeing this prior, since he doubts this just came up a few minutes ago or that Commissioner Tobia became aware of it a few minutes ago; in looking at the form, it was tough to see what enforcement mechanisms the State has; although he had a few seconds to glance at the form Commissioner Tobia provided he certainly would advise the FDOH, as to someone coming in the form looks like it would have address information, the purpose of their trip, which is something one would not want to have locally, and would enable at least the possibility of enforcement; and he thought there was an article in one of the local news sources a couple days ago about the constitutionality and whether there was some statutory basis for judges to keep people absent a bond if they violate self-isolation orders, which in itself suggests they have a mechanism of policing that, and enforcing it. He stated he offered \$20 the last time Commissioner Tobia brought this up and no one took it up; he now has \$50 if Commissioner Tobia could tell him how his proposal could be realistically enforced.

Commissioner Tobia remarked that he did not go to law school and he does not pretend that he went to law school, he appreciates Chair Lober's offer; Chair Lober could give the money to Attorney Bentley; he is not a criminal defense attorney or anything; he asked Attorney Bentley if it can be assumed, if it can be proven, that someone perjured themselves, and he hoped that they could be; and he asked if there was a way to prove perjury.

Attorney Bentley responded it was just like any other situation where there is a complaint, an investigation, and then it has to be proven.

Commissioner Tobia asked if there had been cases where someone has been found guilty of perjury in the State of Florida.

Attorney Bentley replied yes, even in this County.

Chair Lober asked Attorney Bentley if there had been cases which she was aware in which people have self-certified that they are in compliance with the law where they have done so under the pain of perjury and been subsequently convicted of perjury.

Attorney Bentley replied she did not have one right at the tip of her fingers, but it was a matter of proof as in all cases; and she further stated the investigation would reveal the facts and then one has to deal with it from there.

Chair Lober expressed his concern about what exactly would be investigated if the traveler does not have to select a reason; he added the person filling out the form is basically giving a blanket statement stating he or she is not violating the law; if someone signed the form and had a bracelet on their wrist indicating they had COVID-19, one could not disprove anything the person signing the form had done; and if they are out on the beach they could say they are taking a break from what they are there to do which is a lawful purpose and not to worry about what it is because he or she does not have a right to ask him about it.

Commissioner Tobia stated if the Board was to look at the form, which has been out for quite some time; he expected everyone to do their own research and the Commissioners can file a discovery with his office if they would choose to do so; and he thought that was a legal term that he saw on a television show.

Commissioner Tobia stated he did not mind putting the purpose of the trip is business or personal on the form; if the traveler circles pleasure then the County kicks them out; and he has no problem with that. He pointed out the State has less of a penalty and it seems to be working, and he wants to add a penalty on top of it; he stated Chair Lober's argument is the felony does not work, and he does not mind getting rid of the felony and reducing it down to a misdemeanor which is sufficient to the State.

Chair Lober stated that he could make it anything from literally being slapped on the wrist to being executed and it would not make a difference if it is not enforceable which his concern is the penalty is irrelevant if the penalty is never going to be reached; if the penalty is simply floated out there as a hypothetical that will never in the time that it is put in place ever be realized or even potentially realized, it does not matter what it is; with this he has no preference over a misdemeanor's set of ramifications or punishments versus felony punishments because it makes no difference; and this is where one of those where he thinks getting to a better spot where one actually has to identify the purpose of the trip, but if they are here for business they should have to produce something to evidence that. He went on to say it should be the same thing if they are here for medical purposes; those medical purposes do not need to be known, but they should have to produce something to justify that and to prove that to folks.

Commissioner Tobia reiterated that he was not an attorney; he inquired how the enforceability of the form be any different than the enforceability of the note that is currently in place; and he further inquired if Attorney Bentley would still need the further investigation she had mentioned earlier.

Attorney Bentley replied it was the same process: complaint, investigation, and proof at trial.

Chair Lober stated the provided handout of information asked for the driver's name, birth date, cell information, email information, residential information, license plate numbers, and purpose of the trip which is what he was pushing to keep; he continued to say whether or not the travel is related to providing emergency or health services, a description of the trip, length of stay, address of stay in Florida, and a list of all family traveling with, with names and dates of births;

there is a lot more to base a potential enforcement with this than what was in this; and there are items that were asked for, that were not requested than what was drafted or proposed by Commissioner Tobia at the most recent Board meeting.

Attorney Bentley replied there are additional items listed, and they could be added; and she suggested the form be converted to apply to the situation.

Commissioner Pritchett remarked that sounded like it might not be a bad idea; she stated the hoteliers already ask for this information; car tag and everything; she thought that maybe if they were getting to a place where they have a consideration and she thought all the Commissioners were trying to get to the same destination; of Commissioners not wanting tourists coming here right now, and the citizens are trying to maintain their own communities; she believes everyone is trying to get there and is not going to be perfect; she thinks what the Commissioners are trying to do now is to not have any unintended consequences of having another problem; and if the Commissioners could come to some sort of an idea where they are able to protect the vulnerable group in society, in the community, and still get this done she will listen. She noted she is listening and is interested in hearing what Commissioners Isnardi and Smith in Cyber land have to say.

Commissioner Tobia apologized to Attorney Bentley for having to ask another question, but in reference to Marcy's Law, he is sure that Attorney Bentley is familiar with Amendment Six; it had to deal with the disclosure of crime victims, and domestic violence was covered under that; and he asked what the impact would that have on a self-certification as to whether or not it ever becomes public record whether or not the abuser would have access to any of that information; and how would they go about informing the hotelier as to whether or not that would fall within that provision or not.

Attorney Bentley responded she would have to look at the law and check on that; she added public records issues, so long as it is still held by the hotelier, is not a public record but once law enforcement comes and gets a copy of it then it is a public record so then they run into that problem; and the prior version was looking for law enforcement to be able to obtain this document or whatever document they end up with from the hotels, so there is a crossover there.

Chair Lober agreed with Attorney Bentley mentioning that it would not be record when it was maintained by a private entity like a hotel, but as for her comment about, as soon as it is given to law enforcement it becomes public record; and he inquired if it would not be exempt if it was given in furtherance of an investigation as to some crime during the pendency of that investigation.

Attorney Bentley replied it might be exempt depending on how it is written, so she needs to look at all the steps of this before saying it is or it is not; and they need to actually prepare the document and go through the checklist.

Commissioner Isnardi stated it is difficult to ask the local area and she would love to see it for Brevard residents only if it could be done legally; and it is difficult to ask if the State's self-certification is less punitive than what is being asked of local businesses to do, especially if the occupancy rate is between five percent and 10 percent now as it is.

Commissioner Smith stated he agreed with Commissioner Isnardi.

Chair Lober informed Commissioner Pritchett that she has her work cut out for her; and he

stated that he thinks she will have an interesting time weaving through this.

Commissioner Pritchett stated she thinks so too; and she asked if the Board is comfortable as long as they are trying to maintain victims of abuse and still maybe do the State form and then add the little caveat, and merging the two forms.

Commissioner Smith replied that it sounds reasonable to him.

Chair Lober stated his one and only concern is that it has enforceability; and as long as it is enforceable it is highly likely he would support anything as long as it is enforceable.

Commissioner Pritchett asked if she should check with Sheriff Ivey.

Chair Lober responded he would appreciate it.

Commissioner Pritchett inquired if she is allowed to talk to the Commissioners during Policy Group Meetings by text.

Attorney Bentley replied no, because they would be voting on it.

Chair Lober added he worked with Legal Aide for probably the better part of decade representing domestic violence victims in petitions for protection, petitions for injunctions of protections for both domestic violence and stalking; they have a lot of people and he hates to add any more to their busy workload, but they have a lot of people that have a degree of expertise on this as well, so she could reach out to Deputy Rob Johnson of the BCSO, because Pam Brass is no longer there; but they have a lot of good folks too, so if she does want to talk to a different segment that has their interest at heart she may want to give him a call.

6. Curt Smith, Commissioner District 4, Report

Commissioner Smith stated that he would like to give a shout out to all the medical people; Ms. Stahl and all the folks working in the hospital, and Commissioner Isnardi; because when they are in the frontlines saving lives and putting their own lives and well-being at risk; they are also separating themselves from their families, and he thinks that is something that a lot of people do not think about; but they are not getting hugs and kisses from their loved ones. He added they are isolated in their own homes when they get to go home; and he added he just wanted to recognize all those folks.

Commissioner Smith stated that he would like to give a shout out to all the medical people; Maria Stahl and all the folks working in the hospitals, and Commissioner Isnardi because when they are in the frontlines saving lives and putting their own lives, and well-beings at risk; they are also separating themselves from their families; he thinks that is something that a lot of people do not think about; but they are not getting hugs and kisses from their loved ones, He added they are isolated in their own homes when they get to go home, and he just wanted to recognize all of those folks.

4. Bryan Lober, Commissioner District 2, Chair, Report

Chair Lober stated he knew that he has been bombarded so he can imagine all the Commissioners have been bombarded with folks on both sides of this issue that claim to have the answer, whatever the answer might be; sometimes it is one extreme or the other and generally it is very polarizing; he remarked that he came across an

interesting quote that he thought really sums it up; and the quote was from Neil deGrasse Tyson, who is an astrophysicist. He went on to say he thinks it applies and he quoted, "One of the great challenges in life is knowing enough to think you are right but not enough to know you're wrong;" he added that he did a little more recognizance on that to see where Tyson came up with that because it seems rather obvious but brilliant at the same time; and he noted there was something called the Dunning-Kruger Effect and essentially what that is it is an explanation for the tendency of individuals who have a little bit of knowledge to think they have a greater level of expertise as to a particular subject so there are two axis. He continued on that confidence and belief in one's abilities is on one side and experience or knowledge or competence on the other side, the other axis; he stated one can see it peak very early on with just a little bit of confidence or a little bit of experience so he cautioned everyone regardless of whether people are telling the Commissioners what they want to hear; or they are telling the opposite of what they want to hear or a little of both; be mindful of the fact there are experts in this particular type of crisis whether it's health system administrators or whether it's FDOH staff; whether it is epidemiologists, whether it is immunologists there are folks that know infinitely more than a lot of the armchair experts. He reminded the Commission to be mindful of it; but it was not to say that anyone's opinion is unimportant or irrelevant; but there are certain opinions that are appropriately expert opinions that really lay opinions should not carry as much weight on just due to the complexity and the uniqueness of the situation.

Commissioner Pritchett agreed with Chair Lober, and said it was good to take some time and do some research to find out; if one is going to be talking balance sheets and income statements she understands that, but the rest of the stuff is a learning process to her. She added she wanted all the rest of the Board to know that when they come in with information each of the Commissioners have a heavier weight to her than the general public, because she knows they are in the same arena as she is of trying to weigh this out; and she knows the Commissioners have been spending a lot of time doing it. She went on to say to the Commissioners to not bring bad information to her, because she is listening to them; she read a quote from Winston Churchill, "The truth is unchangeable. Malice may attack it. Ignorance may deride it, but at the end there it is," and she added she loved that quote.

Chair Lober asked the Board if there was anything further before they adjourn. Jim Liesenfelt, Assistant County Manager, reminded Chair Lober the Board had not heard the Board report from District 5. Chair Lober apologized to Commissioner Isnardi and said that he did not mean to skip her.

Chair Lober stated he knew that he has been bombarded so he can imagine all the Commissioners have been bombarded with folks on both sides of this issue that claim to have the answer, whatever their answer might be; sometimes it is one extreme or the other and generally it is very polarizing; he came across an interesting quote that he thought really sums it up; and the quote is from Neil deGrasse Tyson, who is an astrophysicist. He went on to say he thinks it applies and he quoted, "One of the great challenges in life is knowing enough to think you are right but not enough to know you're wrong." He added that he did a little more recognizance on that to see where Mr. Tyson came up with that because it seems rather obvious but brilliant at the same time; and there is something called the Dunning-Kruger Effect and essentially what that is, is an explanation for the tendency of individuals who have a little bit of knowledge to think they have a greater level of expertise as to a particular subject so there are two axis; and on that confidence or belief in their abilities is on one side with experience or knowledge, or competence on the other side of the axis. He stated one can see it peak very

early on with just a little bit of confidence or a little bit of experience; he cautioned everyone regardless of whether people are telling the Commissioners what they want to hear, or they are telling the opposite of what they want to hear or a little of both; but be mindful of the fact there are experts in this particular type of crisis whether it is health system administrators or whether it is Florida Department of Health staff, whether it is epidemiologists, whether it is immunologists there are folks that know infinitely more than a lot of the armchair experts. He reminded the Commission to be mindful of it; he stated it was not to say that anyone's opinion is unimportant or irrelevant; but there are certain opinions that are appropriately expert opinions that really lay opinions should not carry as much weight on just due to the complexity and the uniqueness of the situation.

Commissioner Pritchett agreed with Chair Lober; she stated it is always good to take some time and do some research to find it out; if one is going to be talking balance sheets and income statements she understands that, but the rest of the stuff is a learning process for her; she wants the rest of the Board to know that when they come in with information each of the Commissioners have a heavier weight to her than the general public, because she knows they are in the same arena as she is of trying to weed this out; she knows the Commissioners have been spending a lot of time doing it; and to not bring bad information to her, because she is listening to them. She read a quote from Winston Churchill, "The truth is unchangeable. Malice may attack it. Ignorance may deride it, but at the end there it is."; and she added she loves that quote.

7. **Kristine Isnardi, Commissioner District 5, Report**

Commissioner Isnardi stated she wanted to caution that not just leaders but the public be fully aware of all of the information that is out there, because there is a lot of information out there; one is that the hotels were closed, when in fact they have never been closed; and another is refugees and COVID-19 infected people are being welcomed to the County, which has never been the case. She added hotels' occupancy has been down and some hotels have closed completely, in fact many have closed completely, and occupancy has been down five to 10 percent; the hotels have not been the County's issue, as much as it has been in other areas; and she said she liked the proclamation by Chair Lober, but she wants to caution people because she knows everybody is afraid. She noted the County is doing the right thing; the responsible populace are social distancing, washing their hands, not touching their face, taking care of their families, looking after their neighbors, and as a community they have to keep moving forward; the County will continue to see better results than were initially anticipated; and she thanked the public for practicing CDC guidelines, and she also expressed her thanks to the Commissioners for trying to get the truthful information out there so people are not unnecessarily scared; but they are cautious and aware of their surroundings, taking this seriously and reaching out to the Board with questions.

Chair Lober thanked Commissioner Isnardi and stated there has been a good point, because he believes there has been confusion on who the hotels are letting in these days. He stated the County is certainly not letting COVID-19 refugees in, and he hoped to keep it that way.

Commissioner Isnardi stated she wanted to caution not just leaders but the public to be fully aware of all of the information that is out there, because there is a lot of misinformation out there; one is that the hotels were closed, when in fact, they have never been closed; another is welcoming refugees and COVID-19 infected people to the County, which has never been the case; some hotels' occupancy has been down and some hotels have closed completely, in fact

many have closed completely, and occupancy has been down five to 10 percent; the hotels have not been the County's issue, as much as it has been in other areas; and that is why she likes the proclamation done, but she just wants to caution people because she knows everybody is afraid but the County is doing the right thing. She added the responsible populace are social distancing, washing hands, not touching the face, taking care of the family, looking after the neighbors, and as a community they have to keep moving forward; the County will continue to see better results than were initially anticipated; she thanked the public for practicing Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines; and she expressed her thanks to the Commissioners for trying to get the truthful information out there so people are not unnecessarily scared, they are cautious, and are aware of their surroundings by taking this seriously and reaching out to the Board with questions.

Chair Lober stated that has been a good point, because he believes there has been confusion as to who the hotels are letting in these days; he thinks the County is certainly not allowing COVID-19 refugees in, and he hopes at present it is kept that way.

Upon consensus of the Board, the meeting adjourned at 12:43 p.m.

ATTEST:



SCOTT ELLIS, CLERK



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

As approved by Board August 4, 2020.