Commissioners,

I am here speaking on behalf of a coordinated and unified position of the beachside municipalities – I am speaking with the approval of this message by from south to north: Mayor Jim Simmons, Melbourne Beach; Mayor Dave Berkman, Indialantic, Mayor Scott Nickle, Indian Harbour Beach; Mayor Frank Catino, Satellite Beach; Mayor Ben Malik, Cocoa Beach; and Mayor Bob Hoog, Cape Canaveral.

As you discuss and plan how to open Brevard County in coordination with the state, we are requesting that opening beach parking not be included initially in the first phase. All six municipalities respectfully request that parking remain closed at this time. Closing the parking has been an excellent deterrent to keep people from outside our area with higher COVID-19 rates from coming to Brevard, during normal time we see a significant influx from other counties. In no way are we ready to allow this to start again, why put Brevard and specifically beachside at higher risk unnecessarily? You can argue that people are going to come anyway and park illegally, that is an excuse and not a reason to make policy. Yes, people will still come, but at in significantly lower numbers then if parking is opened.

Yes, people have been cooped up and are ready to get out, but we are not ready to host them – we need some more time. The police in all of our towns are exhausted, they have all been working extended shifts and they fear the crowds that will absolutely appear if we invite them by opening parking. Let's do this in a clean and phased plan, not in phase 1 though. Give us time to get the message out clearly, unified and safely for our first responders. Give us time to prepare our town employees to prepare for large numbers of people visiting to use our facilities, beach and restrooms.

If you vote to open parking during this initial phase you have now made our beaches a destination. All of the Orlando destinations are closed, they remain closed, so what is open? A day at the Brevard Beaches for the COVID-19 road to recover – it isn't the time to do that yet. Let's send a unified message from the county and plan this opening in a subsequent phase, again let's do this together.

Each of the aforementioned municipalities have all made the decision that if you open up county parking now, we will close our individual parking by emergency order. That creates confusion and will send incorrect messages to our county and neighboring counties, it will be a patchwork of open beach parking. The Orlando news will be reporting Brevard County beaches and parking is open, that will not be true. The majority of our County beach front parking which is owned by the municipalities, they will all be closed. Please respect the request of our six municipalities and give us more time. Opening parking will create significant problems for us, folks coming from outside our area don't know what parks are county or municipality – it is all Brevard County beaches to them.
Respectfully,

Mayor Dave Berkman
Mayor Frank Catino
Mayor Bob Hoog
Mayor Ben Malik
Mayor Scott Nickle
Mayor Jim Simmons