

SPECIAL MEETING

Due to the State of North Carolina's Declaration of Emergency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and per NCGS § 166A-19.24, the Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners conducted a remote meeting using the WebEx application.

CALL TO ORDER – 1:00 PM - REMOTE MEETING

The Board of Commissioners of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, met remotely on Tuesday, April 28, 2020 at 1:04 p.m. with Chair Dunlap presiding.

Present: Chair George Dunlap
 Commissioner Patricia "Pat" Cotham
 Commissioner Trevor M. Fuller
 Commissioner Susan Harden
 Commissioner Mark Jerrell
 Commissioner Vilma D. Leake
 Commissioner Elaine Powell
 Commissioner Susan Rodriguez-McDowell
 Commissioner Ella B. Scarborough

Chair Dunlap called the meeting to order, followed by introductions, with invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

FEDERAL UPDATES

Amber Harris, North Carolina Association of County Commissioners, said they were paying particular attention to what the federal government was doing since their actions would inform them on what the General Assembly would do, in terms of offering aid to counties due to COVID-19. She stated that she appreciated Congresswoman Adam's attention to the issues and her time in the afternoon. She said the calls and briefings had been really instructive to them.

Alma Adams, U.S. House of Representatives, 12th Congressional District, thanked the Board for the assistance that they gave to Congress, especially during COVID-19, which has changed life as they knew it. She said since the beginning of the crisis, they had lost 289 North Carolinians to COVID-19 and over half a million North Carolinians who lost their job. She said in Mecklenburg County alone, they had seen 43 people lose their life from COVID-19 and that they were experiencing a true national emergency. She said the economy was in free fall, hospitals were stretched to capacity, and the supply chains from food to medical equipment were experiencing unprecedented shocks. She said the people of the County demand and deserve help from their elected officials and that she was delighted to have been involved in helping through the process. She said she fought to be their best advocate on the federal level and since the crisis presented them with the

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decision to shut down the economy, Congress had passed three comprehensive packages and a fourth interim package just last week to help soften the worst blows of the crisis. She said they had appropriated over three-trillion dollars to assist small businesses, working Americans, and to help the overburdened health system respond to the crisis. She said that included \$659 billion for the SBA's Payroll Protection Program, which they knew as the PPP, designed to help small businesses keep their employees on payroll. She said \$260 billion was for expanded unemployment insurance and \$30 billion in emergency education funding, including \$396 million for the K-12 schools in the State. She said \$75 billion was for PPE for the hospitals and front-line workers and almost \$30 billion was for the only strategy that would bring them out of the crisis, which was testing. She said they had not finished the work, because she knew the fiscal pain that the States and localities were feeling as well as weathered their way through the crisis.

Congresswoman Adams said the State faced a multi-billion revenue shortfall in the next fiscal year, meaning less money for the schools and public health services and programs that would help children and families put food on the table. She said they may have heard that the Senate-majority leader said the best option for the States and localities [inaudible] is to let them go bankrupt. She said he must not know how jurisdictions like Mecklenburg County are coordinating the response to this crisis. It was our County and State governments that are tracking new cases of COVID-19, putting into place guidelines that allow us to safely reopen. She wanted the Board to know that the next relief bill from Congress would include funding for the States and localities.

Congresswoman Adams gave her word that the word of all members of the House Democratic caucus support that as well, because in an emergency as unprecedented as that one, they would rely on them to ensure they had everything they needed to be as responsive as necessary. She said the least they could do was be up for the challenge. She let the Board know her office would always be a resource for them in the fight and that she had sought to be as transparent and responsive to all of the residents of Mecklenburg County as the crisis unfolded. She said they had two virtual townhalls and she had made her website an open resource for anyone seeking information on COVID-19 and how to access federal relief and she was taking any and all recommendations on how to best craft Congresses next relief package to help the community rebuild and be stronger than ever before. She said this would be the second package to help citizens and the most important lesson they had all learned from the pandemic was that they were in it together and there was no way to meet the challenge without working together and being responsive to each other. She said she was working to be that kind of representative for them and wanted to hear candidly from them on how the office could be as good of a resource to them as they were to the 1.1 million people who live in Mecklenburg County.

Congresswoman Adams responded to comments and questions from Commissioners.

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ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Commissioner Powell, seconded by Commissioner Jerrell, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

Emily A. Kunze, Clerk

George Dunlap, Chair