

Separate but Still United in Fighting COVID-19



OUR COMMUNITY HAS BEEN TESTED BY DISASTERS BEFORE, from hurricanes with names we won't soon forget to economic crises like the Great Recession. But never have we faced an emergency like this: both too small to see and too large to be ignored. The coronavirus



CHAIRMAN BRYAN DESLOGE

has rightly grabbed the attention of the world, and I am proud to say that our local leaders have acted swiftly and deliberately to stop the spread and protect our most vulnerable populations.

As Chair of the Leon County Board of County

Commissioners, I know we have had to make decisions that may disrupt lives, but they will save lives. I am proud of the leadership of my fellow County Commissioners, and the remarkable ways in which they represent our citizens during these difficult times. And I am especially proud of the work of the Intergovernmental Agency to provide a local lifeline to our businesses that bridges the gap from local to state and federal dollars. At both the County and City, we understand that we are navigating not only a public health emergency, but also an economic crisis.

So while our community has been relatively fortunate, we have not been untouched by the virus. We must continue to follow the guidance from our health experts and stay both socially and physically distanced. And we must continue to support and appreciate our healthcare workers, first responders, and nonprofit agencies who are on the front lines every day. Remember, while we are separate now, we have never been more united in one goal: stopping the spread of COVID-19. **#SaferAtHome**

Leon County Board of County Commissioners



(Left to Right) At-Large Commissioner Mary Ann Lindley, District 2 Commissioner Jimbo Jackson, District 1 Commissioner Bill Proctor, District 4 Commissioner Bryan Desloge (Chairman), District 3 Commissioner Rick Minor (Vice Chairman), District 5 Commissioner Kristin Dozier and At-Large Commissioner Nick Maddox.



**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
VINCENT S. LONG**

ON BEHALF OF THE MEN AND WOMEN OF LEON COUNTY GOVERNMENT, I hope you and your family are staying safe and well during these unprecedented times. No doubt "unprecedented times" is a phrase you have read in the paper, heard on newscasts, seen on social media, or even said yourself around the kitchen table—a table that a few months ago was filled with friends and neighbors, before the coronavirus changed all our lives. Through these trying times, the Chairman and the Board of County Commissioners have provided clear and steady leadership focused on protecting health and safety. And we are now getting familiar with the new normal of birthday parties through Zoom, working from home, and washing our hands every time we can.

For us at Leon County, how we do our jobs may have changed, but what we do is now more essential than ever. Since the first case of COVID-19 in the United States in January, our County has been planning how to continue operations in line with all local, state, and national health expert guidance. Our teams are still processing permits, counseling veterans, assisting with housing, maintaining critical infrastructure, and providing so many other essential services. While offices may be closed to the public to protect public health, we are working even harder at the office, from home, or in the County's Emergency Operations

Center to meet our community's needs. Despite service changes, our County libraries remain open online with more than 100,000 different offerings, and our nearly 3,000 acres of passive parks can still be explored.

Most importantly, our dedicated County paramedics are prepared to be on the frontline of this public health emergency, all in coordination with our Emergency Management team and in lockstep with our many public safety partners and our local hospitals. We know in the weeks and months ahead that all our healthcare workers will play a vital role in response to this crisis, and we will continue to support their efforts.

This unity of effort has been key to our community's resilience in the face of past disasters and it will be even more important now. Separate but united, we must all work together to stop the spread of COVID-19. **#SaferAtHome**

Stay informed. Stay well.

To stay informed on critical, timely updates, visit the County's Emergency Informational Portal: www.LeonCountyFL.gov/ei. The website features accurate, vetted information right from the County's Emergency Operations Center.