

Citizen Comments for the
September 29, 2020 Meeting Agenda

The following Citizen Comments
were received for Non-Agendaed Items

Board of County Commissioners, September 29, 2020 Citizen Comments

Non-Agenda	Name: Allen Blay
	Address: 6253 Buck Run Circle
	Date Submitted: 9/28/2020 12:02:27 AM

I read an article that cited Commissioner Desloge as indicating the Commission would be readdressing the issue of youth sports on Tuesday. I hope the commissioners will recognize that the XC measures put forward by County Manager Long and voted in place two weeks ago were designed for college athletics and there are many differences between college and HS/MS. That should be evident from all the public distress in the public forums where Leon County posted about it. Most importantly, college athletes are adults and our LCS athletes are minors. There is a reason why practically no place in the country is restricting parents from minors' athletic events, especially not in XC. Even in sports where the risk of spectator congregation is much greater and significant restrictions are in place, minor athletes are accompanied by their parents. It is important for both the physical and emotional health of our youth that this restriction be fixed prior to the middle school race at the Greenway on October 1.

The other safety precaution approved that does not make sense is the mandatory COVID testing. College athletes have testing through their team doctors and the tests are paid for by the athletic programs. HS and MS students do not have that luxury and either have to risk not receiving the public test results in time or pay \$100 or more for rapid testing, if it is even available. With proper precautions, testing prior to a XC meet is not necessary or beneficial and is a burden that will prohibit participation for many athletes. The scientific evidence relied on by the FHSAA SMAC demonstrated that this testing is not necessary with appropriate precautions involving masks and social distancing. It is clear that the FHSAA will pull the state meet from Tallahassee if this requirement is not changed, and this will have not only an economic cost to Leon County, but also poses risks and expenses to athletes from Leon County who will have to travel to the state meet in a different location.

I would refer the Commissioners to the rules used by FSUS for their invitational this past weekend as a strong alternative. The rules were followed very well by both athletes and parents and resulted in a successful and safe meet. These standards or something similar have been used at nearly every XC meet this fall around the state. <https://fl.milesplit.com/meets/391715-fsus-xc-invitational/info#.X3Fa9mhKjb0>

Thank you again,
Allen Blay

Board of County Commissioners, September 29, 2020 Citizen Comments

Non-Agenda	Name: Ruth Chase
	Address: 9540 Oak Hollow
	Date Submitted: 9/28/2020 6:00:20 PM

Fabricating Halyard H600 medical grade masks for use by TMH, poll workers, LCS teachers and local non-profit clinics may keep me from being able to speak at your virtual meeting scheduled for 9/29. There are several agenda items I disapprove of, eg Welaunee expansion and the feckless, reckless reopening of Florida during a PANDEMIC. However, it is my fear that everything else will be worse if the following request is not taken.

Trump has repeatedly announced his planned coup of our elections. We refuse to recognize a government which announces victory, not through legal elections, but:

via voter suppression,

refusing to count legal ballots,

declaring victory in advance of counting votes,

seizing control of national electors by state houses,

and any other measures outside of regular, known, historic and Constitutional ballot counting.

We demand the Leon County Commission adopt a resolution that we will not consent to any government formed by those who organize and execute a coup of our free and fair national elections.

Board of County Commissioners, September 29, 2020 Citizen Comments

Non-Agenda	Name: Matthew Hays
	Address: 2113 Foshalee Dr.
	Date Submitted: 9/26/2020 11:48:18 AM

Thank you, for your time and consideration of these comments.

Now is the time to remove the Mask mandate for LEON county.

The first line of defense in preventing spread of COVID or Flu, etc. is washing hands, it's a simple and effective, and scientifically proven.

Staying home when your showing symptoms is pragmatic.

However, mask have no scientific evidence that they are effective, at best it's perceived to be preventive. This is coming from a middle aged man that works at a hospital and attends TCC that had no mask at the peak because of shortages. As well as had the same fears as everyone else. At that time the masks where reserved for the staff that came in direct contact with sick people and to treat them. I have to date along with my staff that works all over the hospital haven't had COVID but we have have maintained the habits of personal hygiene. It is the one thing that should be practice as well as cleaning surfaces that are contacted often. Mask are not being cleaned or replace by the general public often enough to be effective. They may in fact be more harmfully then good because warm, moist micro-environment inside the mask between the face and mask, that may culture harmful molds and on the harmful bacteria. Because of this risk we should remove this mandate. We have created more waste in our environment as well with the use of all these disposable mask. For these reasons we should end this mandate, thank you again for your valuable time.

Board of County Commissioners, September 29, 2020 Citizen Comments

Non-Agenda	Name: MICHELLE AND DAVID Logsdon
	Address: 5674 Tea Rose Trail, Tallahassee, FL 32311
	Date Submitted: 9/25/2020 2:58:21 PM

Please open baseball fields at schools and county parks. We had the choice to send our kids to school or keep them home. Give us the same choice when it comes to sports. LET OUR BOYS PLAY BALL.

Thank you,
MICHELLE AND DAVID LOGSDON

Board of County Commissioners, September 29, 2020 Citizen Comments

Non-Agenda	Name: Susan McLeod
	Address: 801 Chestwood Ave, Tallahassee, FL 32303
	Date Submitted: 9/28/2020 2:22:13 PM

My name is Susan McLeod. I reside at 801 Chestwood Ave in Tallahassee. I am a retired pharmacist. I would like to voice my apprehension of the uncertainty of the upcoming Nov 3 national elections, and urge the Leon County Commission to adopt a resolution supporting free and fair national elections, and rejecting any attempt to negate the valid results.

As you know, President tRump has repeatedly announced his planned coup of our elections. But in the words of the late Molly Ivins: “WE are the deciders. WE are the people who run this country.” Therefore, as duly elected commissioners of Leon County, representing the residents of Leon County Florida, you must refuse to recognize a government which announces victory, not through legal elections, but via:

voter suppression,

refusing to count legal ballots,

declaring victory in advance of counting votes,

seizing control of national electors by state houses,

and any other measures outside of regular, known ballot counting.

I ask the Leon County Commission adopt a resolution that we will not recognize any government formed by those who organize and execute a coup of our free and fair national elections.

Board of County Commissioners, September 29, 2020 Citizen Comments

Non-Agenda	Name: Maribel Parzych
	Address: 233 Chapel Drive
	Date Submitted: 9/24/2020 5:37:06 PM

I respectfully request that the County reopen all Leon County School's athletic fields and facilities. Other counties and organizations in the Florida Panhandle and South Georgia, have re-opened sports fields to their local sports organizations. Schools have been in session for almost one month, including a return to school athletics. Many of our children have been playing travel baseball and soccer in other counties since early May without any issues. As parents we were given the option to choose how our children would return to school and appreciate the work that has been done to keep our children in safe learning environments and schools functioning. Reopening athletic facilities in Leon County would benefit our children and help our area continue to move in a positive direction.

Thank you for your attention to and consideration of this matter.

Board of County Commissioners, September 29, 2020 Citizen Comments

Non-Agenda	Name: Elizabeth Walker
	Address: 6700 Visalia Pl
	Date Submitted: 9/25/2020 3:51:06 PM

I would like to ask that you reconsider your recent protocols for Cross Country events in Leon County. While I am delighted that you have decided to allow XC to restart, I am frustrated that you are not allowing parents to attend the events. The meets are held outside in large open spaces that provide plenty of room to distance. This is unlike football, basketball and volleyball games (all which are slated to begin) which are held in stadiums and enclosed gyms. Players of these sports are being allowed to have 4 tickets for family members. I do not understand the logic of not allowing at least 2 tickets for each Cross Country athlete. Certainly CC venues can safely accommodate this. I am also asking you to consider the ramifications of requiring all XC and personnel to have COVID testing prior to the meets involving out of area teams. This is very cost prohibitive as most insurances do not cover these tests and will therefore cost families \$150 out of pocket for each test. Furthermore, if tests are done several days prior to the meets, they do not guarantee that athletes don't have COVID. So, money is being spent for tests that do not mean anything. Not to mention the chaos that this will create trying to have every XC runner tested in town that week.

Again, please reconsider the protocols that you have put in place. They are burdensome and unfair to our sport.

The following Citizen Comments
were received for Agenda Item #2

Proposed Public Notice 2021 Tentative Board Meeting Schedule and
Proposed 2021 Board Travel Schedule

Board of County Commissioners, September 29, 2020 Citizen Comments

Agenda Item 2	Name: Steven Bohl
	Address: 5979 Thornton Lane
	Date Submitted: 9/25/2020 4:26:02 PM

You are considering these when people are out of work and you should not increase taxes to homeowners. You do this and you will loose my support. You say you want input for all items

The following Citizen Comments
were received for Agenda Item #3

Resolution in Support for the Florida Legislature's Expansion of
Medicaid Eligibility

Board of County Commissioners, September 29, 2020 Citizen Comments

Agenda Item 3	Name: Richard Polangin
	Address: 1300 N Duval Street
	Date Submitted: 9/22/2020 9:53:24 AM

Please support this resolution. Everyone should have health care coverage and this resolution is a step towards that goal.

The following Citizen Comments
were received for Agenda Item #11

Status Report on Leon County's Fertilizer Ordinance

Board of County Commissioners, September 29, 2020 Citizen Comments

Agenda Item 11	Name: Max Epstein
	Address: 1001 San Luis Rd
	Date Submitted: 9/28/2020 1:21:15 PM

Commissioners,

Thank you for taking up this important issue.

I would like to direct you to John Outland's comments, which sum up the improvements needed to the fertilizer and stormwater ordinances. Some of his comment

In addition, please consider:

1. BAN fertilizer application during the rainy months. Contrary to staff recommendation, this action is very important, and will reduce the amount that leeches into the water. Fertilizer pollution, instead of 26% elsewhere, comes from fertilizer use, and therefore not important, is not appropriate. 10% is still quite a bit. Remember, we are spending millions on stormwater treatment. This will save millions down the line and improve water quality without spending a dime.

2. Codify the requirement for time-released fertilizers. Instead of just "recommending" the use -- why not make it law? This again will prevent fertilizers from reaching the water, especially when it costs nothing to the County to implement.

3. After changes are made, mount a public relations campaign, hopefully to inform about the rainy season ban, that I hope you implement. We still need the public

4. Direct staff to use Indian River County's ordinance as a basis, as well as FDEP's Model Ordinance. IRC has been very successful. And their ordinance is not too

It can be viewed here:

<https://ircstormwater.com/fertilizer.htm#:~:text=The%20Indian%20River%20Lagoon%20is%20experiencing%20nutrient%20pollution%2C,and%20For%20phosphorus>

5. Does the county use Roundup? I know the city does. It should be banned from any county application.

Sincerely,

Max Epstein

Board of County Commissioners, September 29, 2020 Citizen Comments

Agenda Item 11	Name: Peter Kleinhenz
	Address: 1709 Verina Court
	Date Submitted: 9/28/2020 2:54:43 PM

Good afternoon,

I feel strongly that Leon County should make every effort to lead the way among Florida counties in regulating the use of fertilizers. I'm not normally one for heavy government regulations, but we have springs and rivers in this area that are world class. We know the impact that nitrogen, phosphorous, and other nutrients contained in common fertilizers have on these water resources. We know it so well that we have invested tens of millions into addressing the problem here in Leon County.

I ask that the following considerations be made regarding the ordinance:

- Fertilizer use during the rainy season (June - November) should absolutely be banned. No question about it. Let's be more concerned about the quality of our water and less concerned about how controversial an idea is. If such a change results in cleaner water, you will win more votes than you will by avoiding an idea that is controversial.
- Do not assume that homeowners and private landowners will follow directions posted on a fertilizer label. I think that a certification process, periodic water quality inspections in target neighborhoods, and/or a reduction in overall lawn size should be encouraged, if financially possible.
- Stormwater ponds should not be considered the end all, be all for water treatment that does not enter the sewer system. These ponds can be enhanced through the use of native wetland vegetation to perform a greater water quality improvement service, but reducing inputs into the system is, by far, more important.

Please do not just step into line with what other counties have done regarding this. An ordinance is a step in the right direction, but let's be leaders. People are attracted to this area due to the rich natural resources of our area. Let's remember that, and be leaders on this issue.

Thank you for your consideration,

Peter Kleinhenz

The following Citizen Comments
were received for Agenda Item #14

Report and Legal Analysis regarding COVID-19 Mitigation Measures

Board of County Commissioners, September 29, 2020 Citizen Comments

Agenda Item 14	Name: Olivia Cooper
	Address: 821 Lake Ridge Drive
	Date Submitted: 9/29/2020 10:32:45 AM

The Leon County mask ordinance must be lifted immediately as it is discriminatory, does not serve its intended purpose, and is unnecessary given the low mortality rate of COVID-19.

1. The survival rate of COVID-19, as stated by the CDC, is consistent with or less deadly than a typical flu season.
2. Cloth and surgical masks do not filter viruses. The pore size of a typical mask is 10-45 micrometers, while the size of the Sars-Cov-2 virus is approximately 0.1 micrometers in size.
3. There is little evidence to suggest that asymptomatic people are infectious. This is supported by The WHO and a study published in NCBI, which stated that “Based on the foregoing discussion, we conclude that the infectivity of some asymptomatic SARS-CoV-2 carriers might be weak. This finding implicates that there is not needful to worry unduly for asymptomatic or mild patients during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.” (Gao et al. 2020.)
4. Masks also pose health risks to the wearers by restricting oxygen and forcing people to breathe their own CO2 for extended periods of time. (Beder et al. 2008.)
5. The board of county commissioners stated that this bill is not intended to be discriminatory. However, prior to this mandate, a person's medical information was considered private. Now, in order to perform everyday tasks, such as grocery shopping, many are forced to disclose to a stranger that they have health conditions that render them unable to wear a mask. They are then subject to the discretion of a business owner or employee, a non-medical professional, who can decide whether a medical condition is valid.

Additional resources:

1. According to the AMA, “Face masks should not be worn by healthy individuals to protect themselves from acquiring respiratory infection because there is no evidence to suggest that face masks worn by healthy individuals are effective in preventing people from becoming ill.”
2. From the New England Journal of Medicine: “We know that wearing a mask outside health care facilities offers little, if any, protection from infection. Public health authorities define a significant exposure to Covid-19 as face-to-face contact within 6 feet with a patient with symptomatic Covid-19 that is sustained for at least a few minutes (and some say more than 10 minutes or even 30 minutes). The chance of catching Covid-19 from a passing interaction in a public space is therefore minimal. In many cases, the desire for widespread masking is a reflexive reaction to anxiety over the pandemic.”
3. From Science Daily regarding a study by UNSW: “The study found respiratory infection was much higher among healthcare workers wearing cloth masks. The penetration of cloth masks by particles was almost 97% compared to medical masks with 44%. Prof. Raina MacIntyre, lead study author and head of UNSW's School of Public Health and Community Medicine, said the results of the study caution against the use of cloth masks ... The authors speculate that the cloth masks' moisture retention, their reuse and poor filtration may explain the increased risk of infection.”
4. "Direct evidence about whether wearing a mask of any sort outside a health-care setting reduces actual transmission of COVID-19 is lacking. This is why public-health decisions about public mask wearing have been difficult to make, and why they differ around the world.” – Catherine Clase, McMaster University
5. According to an article from News-Medical, “Dr. Jenny Harries, England's deputy chief medical officer, has warned that it was not a good idea for the public to wear facemasks as the virus can get trapped in the material and causes infection when the wearer breathes in ... ‘What tends to happen is people will have one mask. They won't wear it all the time, they will take it off when they get home, they will put it down on a surface they haven't cleaned,’ she added ... people go out and don't wash their hands, they touch parts of the mask or their face, and they get infected.”

Board of County Commissioners, September 29, 2020 Citizen Comments

Agenda Item 14	Name: Stephanie Pohler
	Address: 6064 Thackeray Lane
	Date Submitted: 9/23/2020 12:40:42 PM

Dear Board of Commissioners, As a resident of Leon County, I would like to voice my concern over the Leon County Mask Ordinance and the fact that it is being revisited on the agenda for the upcoming Sept 29 meeting, discussing further mitigation for Covid-19. For the record, I am strictly opposed to any idea of extending the mask ordinance further than what already exists, especially to include outdoors. According to CDC and FL Dept of Health data, records show that this is clearly not an emergency and the DOH has yet to track any Covi case to outdoor exposure. This mandate would be an excessive use of power in our community and would show that the Board of Commissioners is making decisions based on fear and alarmism and desire for power, not facts and what is a reasonable support for our community. Need I point out that this virus has a 97% survival rate plus a host of other supporting data to show that life can resume as normal and people can make their own decisions as to how they choose to protect their family's health. Back in the Spring, there were so many unknowns with this virus but we are at a very different place now and the data and known information proves that any decision to keep or expand this mask ordinance would be based on the things I mentioned above, not real facts.

As elected officials in our community, my hope would be that you would hear your community and make decisions based on facts and common sense.

Board of County Commissioners, September 29, 2020 Citizen Comments

Agenda Item 14	Name: Sandeep Rahangdale
	Address: 3827 East Millers Bridge Road
	Date Submitted: 9/26/2020 12:46:02 AM

comments. Humbly offering comments on Item 14:

Please consider keeping the mask mandate in place as a reminder to citizens to "look out for each other" since someone they breathe upon might be immunocompromised. If we have 3 weeks running of less than 5% positive COVID tests it may seem this is unnecessary but I am requesting this until a vaccine is available in our community first out of consideration for the immunocompromised, and second to allow business owners to have backing if they wish to enforce the mandate in their place of business. No fines, no problem, but at least those who wish to ask their customers and clients to comply will have backing from the Leon County Commission.

Respectfully Yours,
Sandeep Rahangdale, MD

The following Citizen Comments
were received for Agenda Item #15

Proposed Revisions to Policy No. 03-16, “Holidays” to Include
Juneteenth as a Paid Holiday for Leon County Government Employees

Board of County Commissioners, September 29, 2020 Citizen Comments

Agenda Item 15	Name: Ann Gillaim
	Address: 1248 Walden Rd
	Date Submitted: 9/22/2020 9:49:07 PM

I have lived in Tallahassee for 65 years, May 20th has always been celebrated as Emancipation Day in Florida. This has also been noted in the history of Florida. Florida slaves received notice in May not June.
Please do your research before using this date.

Board of County Commissioners, September 29, 2020 Citizen Comments

Agenda Item 15	Name: Claude Kenneson
	Address: 1323 N M L King Jr Blvd
	Date Submitted: 9/23/2020 1:14:26 AM

Why in the world are local politicians promoting a Texas holiday when Florida has its own? The end of slavery in Florida came on May 20, 1865, which is our Emancipation Day, occurring a month before that of Texas, which took place June 19, 1865. Local newspaper accounts document Emancipation Day celebrations being held here beginning on May 20, 1866 and thereafter. We don't live in Texas. Someone needs to set the record straight and recognize May 20 as our STATE holiday!

A Concerned Citizen,
Claude Kenneson

Board of County Commissioners, September 29, 2020 Citizen Comments

Agenda Item 15	Name: Sandeep Rahangdale
	Address: 3827 E. Millers Bridge Rd.
	Date Submitted: 9/26/2020 12:41:28 AM

Humbly offering comments on Item 14 and 15:

Regarding 14: Please consider keeping the mask mandate in place as a reminder to citizens to "look out for each other" since someone they breath upon might be immunocompromised. If we have 3 weeks running of less than 5% positive COVID tests it may seem this is unnecessary but requesting this until a vaccine is available in our community first out of consideration for the immunocompromised, and second to allow business owners to have backing if they wish to enforce the mandate in their place of business. No fines, no problem, but at least those who wish to ask their customers and clients to comply will have backing from the Leon County Commission.

Regarding 15: Please consider not implementing a Juneteenth paid holiday in this upcoming cycle for Leon County workers primarily due to the severe economic headwinds all Leon County residents are facing. Leon County workers can take personal leave to celebrate Juneteenth, and the County should expect to have less workforce available that day as a result. Celebrating Dr. MLK, Jr. Day and all other currently paid holidays should be encouraged. This item could be reconsidered in future annual budgets when the economy recovers.

Respectfully yours,

Sandeep Rahangdale, MD

Board of County Commissioners, September 29, 2020 Citizen Comments

Agenda Item 15	Name: Chelsea Rimert
	Address: 176 Parkbrook Circle
	Date Submitted: 9/28/2020 7:33:17 PM

I would urge the Commission to vote in favor of Option 2 to direct the County Administrator to prepare a Resolution in support of legislation to establish Juneteenth as a state and/or national holiday as Juneteenth should be a National Holiday and not just observed by the county government. Our country was built on systemic racism, and our city, county and nation rarely address these injustices. Leon County was the epicenter of the Florida slave trade and home to DOZENS of plantations that can still be visited today. It took years for Florida State University to remove the statue of Frances Eppes, despite being petitioned for years. The College of Criminology and Criminal Justice is even ironically enough name Eppes Hall. Lynchings took place here just like they did throughout the rest of the country even after the Civil War. We have trees that tell many harrowing stories here and many Tallahassee residents do not know what has occurred here. So much of history has been whitewashed and forgotten, but yet in the wake of George Floyd, many are opening their eyes to the truth that these everyday objects have a dark past and that past is not so long ago. We are still fighting for the same things now: justice. It is imperative that Juneteenth be made a national holiday. Tallahassee, like many in the south enacted segregation policies and Jim Crow laws, and is historic for FAMU students leading one of the biggest civil rights demonstrations in the state. Tallahassee has the poorest zip code in the state currently in 2020. Black communities continue to get pushed out and their housing is being replaced by luxury student apartments that no one can afford. Our money is being disproportionately spent and focused between the North vs the South the East vs the West. Even comparing the two universities here, FSU is clearly favored over FAMU. Our resources are not going to the right areas, and affordable housing, jobs and grocery stores are not in areas that are in need. Yes, this is just a proposal for a holiday, but this is why I urge option 2, because we as a county, city and nation have a lot to do.

Board of County Commissioners, September 29, 2020 Citizen Comments

Agenda Item 15	Name: Kathleen Spehar
	Address: 2124 Dozier Dr
	Date Submitted: 9/28/2020 7:58:26 PM

I commend the commission for taking this up, and in particular, appreciate the efforts of Commissioners Maddox and Proctor to ensure Emancipation Day is fully honored and celebrated. COCA (The Council on Culture & Arts) has been working with other culture and history destinations on guaranteeing that Emancipation Day in Florida is not overlooked and written out as it relates to accuracy and the position that Florida occupied in this process of freeing of slave in the United States. As a county with a rich array of historical sites, museums and heritage destinations, the importance of honoring the May 20th date ties directly to rich opportunities to increase historical and cultural exposure and ecotourism. With this in mind, I ask the commission to consider shifting the focus in Leon County/Tallahassee to May 20th, within the same framework of celebration defined in the agenda item, without taking away from Texas and its leaders and community have done for that state. Thank you for your time and for this consideration. - Kathleen Spehar, Executive Director, The Council on Culture & Arts

The following Citizen Comments
were received for Agenda Item #24

Status Report and Recommendations on the Leon County COVID-19
Response and Re-opening Plan

Board of County Commissioners, September 29, 2020 Citizen Comments

Agenda Item 24	Name: Paul Arons
	Address: 1706 Beechwood Circle N
	Date Submitted: 9/28/2020 7:50:58 PM

Regarding COVID-19 Agenda items 14 and 24, and the Governor's order proceeding to phase 3 of reopening, the staff analysis points out that Leon County has not fully met CDC gating criteria for emerging from Phase 2.

To the extent that businesses further reopen in Phase 3, Leon County ordinance standards of distancing, face covering and sanitizing become all the more important to maintain.

Hopefully in addition, the County Health Department and area medical facilities will maintain a robust program of COVID testing and contact tracing, for isolation and quarantine to minimize any potential resurgence of new infections, hospitalizations and mortality.

Although enforcement incentives are negated by the Governor's order, the Commission should mobilize the cooperative, science-based spirit of our community by reasserting and emphasizing voluntary compliance with such measures to mitigate the spread and possible second wave of COVID-19.

This is most consistent with the recommendation to adopt Option 1 of the staff analysis;

"Direct the County Administrator to maintain Phase 2 of the Leon County COVID-19 Response and Re-opening Plan for County operations, programs, and services."

Thank you,

Paul Arons MD

Board of County Commissioners, September 29, 2020 Citizen Comments

Agenda Item 24	Name: Jocelyne Fliger
	Address: 912 Chestwood Ave
	Date Submitted: 9/29/2020 10:37:50 AM

I ask the Commission to please take into account the county's vulnerable citizens who benefit from a mask mandate. Many senior adults are still mostly confined to their homes and suffering social isolation as a result. Social isolation leads to depression, worsening physical health, and sometimes even death. Having a mask mandate means that seniors can run errands without worrying about coming into contact with others who are not appropriately wearing masks. Wearing masks makes those of us who are immunocompromised feel safer when having to go to necessary doctor's appointments and other critical errands. Masks have worked in our county, have proven to keep the virus at bay, and should continue to be mandated.

Board of County Commissioners, September 29, 2020 Citizen Comments

Agenda Item 24	Name: Sheryl Grossman
	Address: 2288 Hampshire Way
	Date Submitted: 9/29/2020 10:42:26 AM

The mask ordinance is an important component of our efforts to stop the spread of COVID, clearly stated by scientists and public health experts. The loosening of restrictions by the governor shows a reckless disregard for both. Statistics from states with mask ordinances, such as Vermont, support this.

VT total cases 1,745. VT cases per 100,000: 279.7
FL total cases 701,302 FL cases per 100,000: 3,265
VT total deaths: 58 VT deaths per 100,000: 9.3
FL total deaths: 14,037 FL deaths per 100,000: 65.4

Thank you.

Board of County Commissioners, September 29, 2020 Citizen Comments

Agenda Item 24	Name: Stephanie Henningsen
	Address: 408 Meridian Ride
	Date Submitted: 9/28/2020 7:33:52 PM

Please put an end to the mask mandate. It does not fall within your responsibilities to protect my health. This is government overreach and proven so by the response from Governor DeSantis when he removed possible fines, statewide. Any such health measures could be voluntary, but should not mandated. The only absolute number which can be relied upon with COVID, is the number of deaths. And we can all agree that the number of deaths in Leon County has been relatively low, even before the mandate. There is no proof that the mandate has helped at all and even by his own admission, Commissioner Desloge said that the positive percentage had increased. Either way, the curve was flattened, the hospitals are equipped and ready. We've done what you asked of us. We were told two weeks. It's been 7 months. Let each of us be responsible for our own health. There is science to back up the fact that masks themselves pose a health risk. I know you all have made it abundantly clear that you choose not to believe that science. I should have that choice as well. End the mandate so that the people of Leon County can quit living in fear.

Thank you,
Stephanie Henningsen

Board of County Commissioners, September 29, 2020 Citizen Comments

Agenda Item 24	Name: DENEICE HOWELL
	Address: Saw Palmetto Lane
	Date Submitted: 9/28/2020 7:57:25 PM

We've made it to Phase 3! It's time to consider both allowing parents to watch their kids compete and removing the testing requirements for participation in Cross Country. We're not participating in a high risk sport like football or volleyball -- neither of which are imposing such requirements. As important as it is for my child to compete, it's just as important for him to have his mom and dad there supporting him, his teammates, and his competitors. We have our masks ready and all parents are ready to comply!

Board of County Commissioners, September 29, 2020 Citizen Comments

Agenda Item 24	Name: Tara Huls
	Address: 2555 Eddie Rd
	Date Submitted: 9/29/2020 8:21:26 AM

Please kee the mask ordinance in place.

Board of County Commissioners, September 29, 2020 Citizen Comments

Agenda Item 24	Name: Jeanne Lebow
	Address: 1918 Wahalaw Ct
	Date Submitted: 9/29/2020 10:12:21 AM

The mask ordinance must stand if you follow the science and care about public health. The loosening of restrictions by the governor shows a reckless disregard for both.

I just returned from three months in Vermont. I saw almost no one without masks. Vermont has a Republican governor who sanely put in place a statewide mask ordinance. The comparison between the two states is telling:

VT total cases 1,745. VT cases per 100,000: 279.7

FL total cases 701,302 FL cases per 100,000: 3,265

VT total deaths: 58 VT deaths per 100,000: 9.3

FL total deaths: 14,037 FL deaths per 100,000: 65.4

Board of County Commissioners, September 29, 2020 Citizen Comments

Agenda Item 24	Name: CHRISTINE Lucas
	Address: 3325 VASSAR CT
	Date Submitted: 9/29/2020 4:38:30 PM

Our family is strongly in favor of retaining the mask requirement ordinance. We have at-risk family members, and abandoning this requirement would essentially make our entire family shut ins. Putting a piece of fabric on your face is a small inconvenience to help save a life.

Board of County Commissioners, September 29, 2020 Citizen Comments

Agenda Item 24	Name: Michelle May-Knowles
	Address: 1237 Sandler Ridge Road
	Date Submitted: 9/28/2020 9:01:42 PM

Please, please, please let us play baseball at county parks!

City has opened baseball, the Governor has moved the state to Phase 3, & travel ball teams are using the County fields to practice on, so all should be allowed to play. It is my son's last season of eligibility at Chaires & we would love to be able to play there.

Thank you!

Board of County Commissioners, September 29, 2020 Citizen Comments

Agenda Item 24	Name: Sarah Mueller
	Address: 3515 DAYLILY LN
	Date Submitted: 9/29/2020 4:33:19 PM

I hope you will continue the mask ordinance.

Board of County Commissioners, September 29, 2020 Citizen Comments

Agenda Item 24	Name: Sine Murray
	Address: 2015 Seminole Dr.
	Date Submitted: 9/29/2020 12:22:04 PM

First let me thank County staff for preparing a well-written and concise agenda item for your consideration on Leon County's COVID 19 response. Unfortunately, I can not locate the recommendations for enforcing the mask ordinance in light of the Governor's recent executive order. Therefore, I would simply urge the Commission to consider all means to leave a mask ordinance in place. Masks are known to help mitigate the spread of the virus. We must stop this virus and stop politicizing public health. Despite some vocal citizens who make a lot of noise at public meetings, the majority of the public supports mask wearing (<https://www.wtsp.com/article/news/health/coronavirus/poll-shows-79-percent-of-floridians-want-a-statewide-mask-mandate/67-3ee248d7-af76-41c1-85f2-7dc9f0f904d3>). As the staff analysis suggests another wave of the virus is likely, let's work together to keep Leon County safe!

Respectfully,

Sine A. Murray

Board of County Commissioners, September 29, 2020 Citizen Comments

Agenda Item 24	Name: Terri Poore
	Address: 715 Red Fern Road
	Date Submitted: 9/29/2020 8:04:49 AM

I think the mask ordinance is very important for the safety of our community. Please keep the mask ordinance in place. Strong leadership is so necessary to get us through this difficult time! We have the tools to decrease the caseload. We're working from home and have our son in the Digital Academy to help keep teachers and others safe. I'm frustrated that not everyone sees the importance of making sacrifices for the good of the public health. I implore you to be strong leaders to help set an example of how we care for each other and make tough decisions for everyone's safety. Thank you.

Board of County Commissioners, September 29, 2020 Citizen Comments

Agenda Item 24	Name: Chelsea Rimert
	Address: 176 Parkbrook Circle
	Date Submitted: 9/28/2020 7:47:30 PM

In Table 1. Downward trajectory of documented COVID-19 cases, OR
Downward trajectory of positive tests as a percent of total tests (flat or increasing volume of tests) are two very different statistics and is manipulation of statistical data to get a desired outcome to not cause panic. Considering Table 1 provides potentially skewed data, I am a bit concerned at the figures as well. I would recommend the commission vote in favor of Option 2 Provide direction to the County administrator on revisions to Phase 2 of the Leon County COVID-19 Response and Re-opening Plan for County operations, programs, and services as the commissioners voted against staff recommendations previously with furthering the opening of sports such as opening all tennis courts and cross country. I would recommend those going back to how they were and remaining and phase 2 and following recommendations of the CDC and staff not pandering the the north side of town.

Board of County Commissioners, September 29, 2020 Citizen Comments

Agenda Item 24	Name: Barbara Ross
	Address: 1806 Tamiami Drive, Tallahassee, FL 32301
	Date Submitted: 9/29/2020 11:54:23 AM

Please, please keep the mask ordinance in place until there's a vaccine.

Board of County Commissioners, September 29, 2020 Citizen Comments

Agenda Item 24	Name: Mandy Rozier
	Address: 1126 Miccosukee Rd
	Date Submitted: 9/29/2020 11:13:02 AM

Please follow the guidance of the majority of public healthcare experts in the US and abroad. Scientists are advising us to continue wearing masks and keeping physical distance at this time. Please do not remove mask orders that protect our community. “Relaxing protections” is exactly the opposite of what our experts are advising.

Board of County Commissioners, September 29, 2020 Citizen Comments

Agenda Item 24	Name: Ron Saff
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lobbyist	Address: 2300 centerville rd
	Date Submitted: 9/28/2020 9:03:22 PM

Chief of CDC Robert Redfield has stated that if everyone wore a mask the pandemic would soon be over. Getting as many people as we can to wear a mask is the consummate no-brainer. Although DeSantis suspended fines for breaking a mask mandate, it is still a great idea to have one. As you are probably well aware, Tallahassee (or perhaps it was Leon County) was one of the hottest Covid 19 hot spots per capita recently as listed in the NY Times. Don't let DeSantis play politics with a coronavirus that can kill. Keep the mask mandate, even though he is trying to undermine your wonderful efforts. Thanks Ron Saff, MD

Board of County Commissioners, September 29, 2020 Citizen Comments

Agenda Item 24	Name: Tracy Warrington
	Address: 2276 Tuscavilla Road
	Date Submitted: 9/29/2020 4:42:11 PM

Regarding masks - there are so many fragile individuals in our community that do not look sick or frail. It's impossible to know who is at risk. My son, with 22% lung function, has been to a store once in six months, which is not good for his mental health, because we are so afraid of non-maskers. I would like to see masks stay in place until a majority of the community is vaccinated.

Board of County Commissioners, September 29, 2020 Citizen Comments

Agenda Item 24	Name: Kenneth Williams
	Address: 2523 Opal Court
	Date Submitted: 9/29/2020 3:05:25 PM

Dear Commissioners,

The following text is an excerpt from the Frenchtown Neighborhood COVID-19 Relief & Stimulus Plan, developed by the Frenchtown Community Action Team (CAT), in response to the overwhelming financial devastation residents in the Frenchtown and surrounding communities have experienced as the result of COVID-19, which will continue after the Leon County CARES Individual Assistance Program (CARES Program) ends. The plan, which recognized the gaps in the accessibility and availability of CARES Program resources to those in dire need of rent, mortgage and utility assistance, was submitted to the City Commission and CRA to request a supplemental funding source to address these on-going issues. Subsequently, the plan was shared with your staff and are similar to CARE Program issues being presented at your meeting this afternoon.

"The CARES Program provides an invaluable resource to many families and the Frenchtown CAT will be working with partners to bring these and other resources into the neighborhood. However, many residents will not benefit from the CARES Program resources based on the following identified service gaps:

1. Ineligibility of individuals on fixed incomes or with no documented income loss - Individuals on fixed incomes such as the elderly and disabled and families that are unable to demonstrate a reduction of income due to COVID-19 will not qualify for assistance through the CARES Program, even though their expenses may have increase substantially.

2 Availability of funds/assistance to meet current needs and/or needs that will continue to exist when funding for the CARES Program is exhausted - The CARES Program is projected to assist up to 3,000 Leon County residents (households) who qualify for a one-time award up to \$3,000 per household for rent, mortgage and utility payments. These funds will come directly from the \$7.5 million dollars allocated for this purpose. The CARES plan will assist many eligible residents/families; however, the Frenchtown CAT asserts that there will be many families who remain unserved. The City helped just under 1,400 households or businesses defer utility payments and those bills will be coming due soon. Additionally, many individuals/families affected by COVID-19 will continue to experience severe financial strains into the coming holiday season and into the new year;

3 Maximum Amount of Assistance - The CARES Program eligibility criteria established a cap of \$3000 for assistance and an applicant may receive financial assistance for both past due housing and utility payments, so long as the total of past-due payments do not exceed the \$3,000 maximum limit. It is very likely many local families will be behind on these payments in excess of \$3,000 and will need a secondary source of assistance to help them to qualify for the CARES program; and

4 Eligible Expenditures - Childcare and healthcare costs are not qualified expenses for the CARES Program. This is problematic because often families are forced into making housing and utility bills payments a priority, leaving little to nothing left for childcare, or important prescriptions or other medical care items. Only households with an essential worker are eligible for Leon Cares Early Learning Coalition (ELC) funding. For elderly residents with medical conditions and disabled residents, medical debt is one of the more expensive monthly bills they incur. Providing financial assistance for these other pressing financial obligations will allow households more flexibility in defining how to stabilize their own financial emergencies. "

Your consideration of these concerns when contemplating your staff's recommendations for changes to the CARE Program, is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

CAT Co-Chairs

Attorney Mutaqee Akbar, Darryl Scott, Beverly Williams

Board of County Commissioners, September 29, 2020 Citizen Comments

Agenda Item 24	Name: Ken Winker
	Address: 1791 Cassatt Drive
	Date Submitted: 9/29/2020 5:47:56 PM

Dear Commissioners: I am strongly recommending that you continue to maintain the mask requirements for all indoor areas. And, to encourage all restaurants and bars to maintain limited seating indoors and to continue to provide as much outdoor seating as possible and provide takeout orders as well. I also recommend that you place restrictions on large gatherings, especially at areas around the universities.

Thank you.

Ken Winker