



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact: Joel Gillie, Public Information Officer

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COVID-19 #23 April 21, 2020

Wayne County Board of Commissioners Approve Letter to Governor Cooper

Wayne County, NC – Today, the Wayne County Board of Commissioners approved a letter to Governor Roy Cooper regarding COVID-19 restrictions in our state. While the Board of Commissioners understands that we are in unprecedented times, our economy is suffering tremendously due to restrictions put in place through the Governor’s executive orders.

The Board asks that economic consequences be considered before extending any COVID-19 restrictions in the state, and that further action be taken to open all businesses in North Carolina. A copy of the approved letter has been attached to this release.



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WAYNE COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



WAYNE COUNTY
NORTH CAROLINA
Phone: (919) 731-1435
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April 21, 2020

VIA EMAIL AND US MAIL

The Honorable Roy A. Cooper
Governor of the State of North Carolina
1 East Edenton Street
Raleigh, NC 27601

Dear Governor Cooper:

As Chairman of the Wayne County Board of Commissioners and on behalf of the Commissioners, I thank you and your staff as you navigate through the COVID-19 pandemic making difficult decisions that impact every citizen in our State. The restrictions that are now in place have caused an unprecedented disruption among our businesses and will have dramatic effects on our economy for years to come. As North Carolina considers how to reopen its economy, it is important to consider the extreme hardships which our business community has endured over the past several months. Many Wayne County businesses will not be able to reopen resulting in job loss and severe economic distress for Wayne County citizens.

Your recent Order requiring limited numbers of people in grocery stores and big box stores continues to mandate safe social distancing. Many Wayne County business leaders have expressed concerns about how smaller businesses have been disproportionately affected by these regulations. Locally owned retail stores, small businesses, personal care establishments, and restaurants should be allowed to operate under the social distancing guidelines currently outlined in standing Executive Orders. Consistent social distancing policies amongst all businesses would be a critical first step in a return to normalcy for the citizens of North Carolina. Such policies would greatly benefit small retailers and other vulnerable businesses who have been affected most by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Moving forward, it is important that elected officials throughout North Carolina carefully consider potential negative economic consequences of extending

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COVID-19 restrictions. The Wayne County Board of Commissioners requests that any further executive action focus on opening all businesses and allowing North Carolinians to get back to work.

We keep you, your family, and your staff in our prayers as we all continue to deal with the impact of COVID-19.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "E Ray Mayo" with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

E. Ray Mayo
Chairman, Wayne County Board of Commissioners