



Charlotte County Government

"To exceed expectations in the delivery of public services."

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May 12, 2020

The Honorable Ron DeSantis
Governor, State of Florida
400 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Governor DeSantis,

Charlotte County thanks you for your efforts and systematic handling of the COVID -19 pandemic. Following your lead, we have also taken steps to slowly open our beaches, parks, boat ramps, walking trails as well as our disc golf courses. Our constitutional officers are also putting in place precautionary measures where direct interaction with the public is necessary but minimizing those interactions tremendously.

As we carefully reopen and analyze our situation locally, we review the economic impact of our residents. Our local unemployment currently is estimated to be nearly 30%; up from 3.5% in February and 4.9% in March. These numbers have a detrimental economic impact on our residents, compounded by difficulties with the unemployment system you are currently addressing; they are past their limits. Most people do not have reserves to weather a storm of this magnitude.

The Task Force you carefully selected are experienced, intelligent and talented individuals who reflected your thoughts into the seriousness of restarting of our economy. The input from private sector leaders, business executives and residents from around the State is important in considering the State in a macro view. Their contributions are reflected in a well thought report.

Your carefully phased approach to implement their recommendations has been recognized by this board as an exemplary process. We concur with your decision to not move too quickly into the reopening and restarting our economy.

During this health crisis, you have taken actions through thoughtful, measured and critical thinking to minimize the impact of COVID-19 on Floridians. We are grateful for your efforts and implementation of these best practices.

We fully support your efforts in reopening Florida following the benchmarks set forth in the report submitted to you by The Re-Open Florida Task Force including increased testing.

We look forward to working with you and your administration.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Truex".

William G. Truex, Chair
Charlotte County Board of Commissioners

WGT/dw/20-28

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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