



Chesterfield County, Virginia
Joseph P. Casey, Ph.D., County Administrator



Hanover County, Virginia
Cecil R. "Rhu" Harris, Jr., County Administrator



Henrico County, Virginia
John Vithoukas, County Manager

May 14, 2020

The Honorable Ralph S. Northam
Governor of Virginia
Patrick Henry Building, Third Floor
1111 East Broad Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Dear Governor Northam:

The following letter was deemed warranted as our regional neighbor, the City of Richmond, is requesting their need for additional delays or restrictions regarding tomorrow's re-openings. We wanted to convey our respect for the City's decision-making process, but also convey our readiness to comply with your Executive Order 61 and its accompanying guidelines.

We are aware and appreciative of your efforts to enact Phase One Easing of Certain Temporary Restrictions Due to the Novel Coronavirus (Covid-19) as outlined in Executive Order 61. In addition, the accompanying Guidelines your office issued were very helpful for local government leaders to work with business leaders and their association representatives. From these partnerships, and our daily interactions amongst each other and our business community, we have developed detailed strategies to best position phase one reopening to be deployed that are health-mindful of the business, employees and their customers.

The access to personal protective equipment (PPE) no longer appears to be the constraint facing the business community or citizen. We have worked out partnerships with businesses, and through their business associations, to help these businesses get further access to state executive orders, Commonwealth guidelines and information, local regulations (and modifications to such regulations, as applicable). We have also provided pathways for business workplace safety measures via our risk management and public safety expertise (e.g., sanitizer, cleaning products, signage, employee-customer policies of operation).

Our business community is vulnerable and for those businesses that were deemed essential from a retail perspective to those operating in office environments, great strides have been made by them to have safety standards above even state guidelines and executive orders. We are also appreciative of the many citizens who, on their own, have procured masks and other products to make their interaction in such businesses an even safer experience. These citizens also have done a great job thus far in following the rules of the businesses for spatial distancing and waiting in long lines apart from one another.

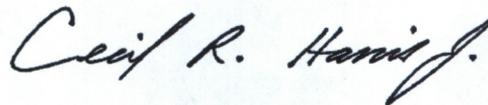
As a region, we also recognize the hardships and interactivity amongst our citizens and businesses. We have many citizens whose job is in a different locality than which they live, for which they are dependent upon phase one re-openings. We are also aware that many of those businesses, that have not already gone out of business, are dependent upon phase one re-openings as they are currently day-to-day in determining whether to close permanently and are at their most vulnerable point right now.

Again, we stand together as regional partners, who value the professionalism of our businesses in providing for a safe workplace. We are also aware that future data you review, may yield further re-openings or lifting of other temporary restrictions, but also aware that such data may also require adjustments to constrain their scope of operation. Either way, we are here to serve the public and represent your Commonwealth well during this pandemic.

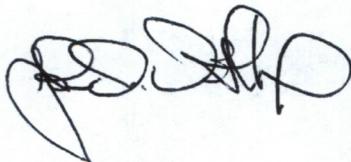
Sincerely,



Joseph P. Casey, Ph.D.
Chesterfield County Administrator



Cecil R. "Rhu" Harris, Jr.
Hanover County Administrator



John Vithoukias
Henrico County Manager

Cc: The Honorable Members of the Chesterfield Board of Supervisors
The Honorable Members of the Hanover Board of Supervisors
The Honorable Members of the Henrico Board of Supervisors
The Honorable Levar Stoney, Mayor of Richmond