

GUILFORD COUNTY FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE April 16, 2020

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Guilford County's Local Stay-At-Home Order Set to Expire

County Residents Now Fall Under Statewide Restrictions

GUILFORD COUNTY – Jeff Phillips, Chairman of the Guilford County Board of Commissioners announced today that the County's local Stay-At-Home Order originally issued on March 25, 2020 (effective March 27) expires at midnight tonight and will not be extended. After the County's order was issued, Governor Roy Cooper put a comprehensive Statewide Stay-At-Home Order in place. Both the County and the State have amended their respective orders over the past several weeks, resulting in some redundancy and inconstancies in enforcement.

Phillips stated that Guilford County took immediate and early action prior to State intervention to help flatten Guilford's curve and protect its citizens. As the local order comes to an end, Guilford County residents will now be subject to the provisions of the State's Order exclusively; removing any confusion on areas which may or may not have been more stringent.

The County's decision not to extend the local order while remaining covered under the Statewide restrictions, will serve to align Guilford's efforts with those of the majority of North Carolina's counties. Chairman Phillips emphatically stated, "The expiration of a local order is not a call to return to business as usual. Guilford County is still experiencing infection locally and we are not out of the woods. We still face, and we will continue to face for many more months, a virus that spreads through physical contact. It continues to be important that residents do everything they can to minimize the amount of physical contact with other people."

Phillips added, "We support and encourage our residents to follow the measures outlined in the State's Stay-At-Home Order; specifically, residents should only go out for essential purposes (such as obtaining

food, seeking medical care, or going to work) and to keep social distancing and hand washing a priority."

Under the Statewide Order residents will see very little difference from the County's order regarding mass gatherings, essential travel and social distancing restrictions.

Guilford County's Emergency Management and Public Health Department will continue to manage the local response to the COVID-19 outbreak under the standing State of Emergency, and City and County Law Enforcement agencies will still be tasked with enforcement, monitoring, education and compliance with the statewide order. Residents can find information on the State's order through the County's website www.guilfordcountync.gov

Chairman Phillips is expected to speak to the decision to transfer to the Statewide restrictions at tonight's 5:30PM Board of Commissioners meeting. Residents may view the meeting live from the County's website at www.guilfordcountync.gov, or watch on Greensboro Television Network (GTN), available on Spectrum Channel 13, NorthState Channel 31 and AT&T U-verse channel 99.