

From: Maurice Jones
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2020 6:32 PM
To: Town Email Users
Subject: Town Manager's Weekly Message

Hello Everyone,

As I reflect on the last several weeks I am reminded of how strong our organization is and how fortunate we are to have such outstanding staff. We have been weathering several challenges during these extraordinary times with great professionalism and compassion. In the aftermath of the recent killings of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery and Breonna Taylor our nation and community continue to grapple with how best to turn our outrage into action. I held an open meeting with our Senior Leadership Team recently to share our reactions and how we are coping with the daily and historic instances of violence and racism in our country. I have also encouraged our department directors to offer opportunities for our employees to share and support each other. These are difficult conversations but I continue to believe that constructive dialogue leads to real action and real change.

During the last nine days we have had four peaceful protests take place in our Downtown and University campus. We held a Council meeting on Wednesday that lasted until 1am because of how many people wanted to speak and advocate for action. I'm grateful to the employees who have made it possible for our community to express themselves in a variety of ways. And I believe our employees need the same opportunity to participate in open dialogue and take positive action steps. I am joined by a leadership team that is dedicated to opening that dialogue with you and I will continue to support their efforts and listen to what you are saying. We are planning to offer additional opportunities to discuss these issues, both internally and externally, in the near future.

In the meantime, COVID-19 continues to impact our lives. While some trends are positive, I am disturbed to see the recent increase in hospitalizations due to serious complications from the virus. This is not the time to let our guard down. As a reminder: if you are in a Town facility and there is even a chance you are sharing space with another individual, you are required to wear a face covering or mask. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends faces coverings when proper physical distancing (at least six feet from the next person) cannot be achieved in an attempt to prevent the spread of the virus from people who may not be aware they have it. If you are not wearing a face covering, your supervisor will ask you to wear it. If you don't have access to one, please speak with your supervisor, and they will provide you one. This week the Town joined with Orange County to mandate the wearing of face coverings in places of businesses and when physical distancing is not possible. Please protect yourself and others by wearing a face covering in public places. It is the right thing to do and exemplifies strong leadership.

One of the most effective safety steps we can take in our facilities is to allow for folks, who can, to continue working remotely. For telecommuting employees, please see a recently issued [Supplemental Teleworking Guidance for Adverse Events Conditions 1.5 and 2](#). There are operational steps you can take to keep us connected and communication channels I'm asking you to use to help us manage resources. I ask that you take a look at them and implement what is appropriate for you.

Thanks for your good work under difficult circumstances.

All the Best,
Maurice

Maurice Jones
Town Manager
Town of Chapel Hill, NC
(919) 968-2743

