**From:** esthermanheimer@avlcouncil.com
**To:** Brownie W. Newman
**Cc:** JMatthews@ashevillenc.gov
**Subject:** FW: State COVID-19 Response Legislation / Message to County Membership
**Date:** Thursday, May 14, 2020 9:32:54 AM
**Attachments:** NCACC NCLM NCMMC Joint statementv4_05122020.docx

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Brownie – will you agree to sign a joint statement between you and me in support of the effort described below (and attached)?
Beau Mills, the ED for the MetroMayors has been working very hard to get the League and NCACC on the same page regarding relief needed for local government. So, in a rare moment here, they have agreed to issue a joint statement. I think there was a lot of concern on the part of cities that the last relief package was allocated solely to counties. It created some bad blood, but I think we're all realizing we need to lay down arms and work together if we're going to get further relief.
Also, the city is very pleased with the county's allocation of the relief money received to date. The distribution was very fair. We only wish the state gave Buncombe Co more!
Thanks

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**From:** Beau Mills <beau.mills@Metromayors.com>
**Sent:** Thursday, May 14, 2020 8:07 AM
**To:** Esther E. Manheimer <emanheimer@vwlawfirm.com>
**Cc:** Esther Manheimer <esthermanheimer@avlcouncil.com>
**Subject:** RE: State COVID-19 Response Legislation / Message to County Membership

Esther – I would be totally beholden to you if you and Brownie could find a way for the two of you to make some sort of acknowledgement of this important partnership between local governments – I know the city and county are working together… I am also attaching the LATEST DRAFT of a JOINT statement – I expect it will go out before Noon TODAY.

1. Make sure Brownie **THANKS** Kevin Leonard at NCACC for his work on this – he really showed some leadership here – he didn't have to do this (his organization is firmly ensconced in the "catbirds seat" with the GA) – his email to his membership is a well-balanced tone of strength and confidence in his organization – BUT also a CLEAR signal that counties and cities need to work together.
2. IN the coming days - can you and Brownie make some sort of similar statement/letter to the editor/or some other sort of way to demonstrate to Congress and our citizens and General Assembly – echoing the sentiment here that cities and counties are working together and we need support of the federal and state government - happy to help with it.

**From:** Esther E. Manheimer <emanheimer@vwlawfirm.com>
**Sent:** Thursday, May 14, 2020 7:53 AM
**To:** Beau Mills <beau.mills@Metromayors.com>
**Cc:** nancy.vaughan@greensboro-nc.gov; Esther Manheimer <esthermanheimer@avlcouncil.com>
**Subject:** Re: State COVID-19 Response Legislation / Message to County Membership

Beau- you are killing it, thank you for bringing these groups together (apparently it only takes a pandemic).

On May 13, 2020, at 10:41 PM, Beau Mills <beau.mills@metromayors.com> wrote:

Nancy and Esther:

This email below is a – in context – very helpful – and a really important moment in the local government world in NC. Tomorrow we will have a JOINT statement with NCLM and NC Assoc of County Commissioners calling on our delegation to support our local governments in NC. These two first steps in building a COALITION represent A LOT of work on my part – and some strong determination on the part of the NC Assoc County Commissioners Director- I have a huge amount of respect for Kevin.

I think it will position us to do some pretty potent lobbying TOGETHER with our counties – with our Federal Delegation and perhaps – just maybe – at some point with our state legislature.

Esther - I hear your words that you shared from McGrady – working hard to overcome that!

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**From:** Kevin Leonard <kevin.leonard@ncacc.org>
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 13, 2020 8:35 PM
**To:** Paul Meyer (pmeyer@nclm.org) <pmeyer@nclm.org>; Rose Williams <rwilliams@NCLM.ORG>; Beau Mills <beau.mills@Metromayors.com>
**Cc:** Amy Bason <amy.bason@ncacc.org>
**Subject:** FW: State COVID-19 Response Legislation / Message to County Membership

Rose, Paul, and Beau –

Below is a message went sent to all County Commissioners and County Managers earlier this evening. I hope this sets us up well for our joint message tomorrow and it is received in the spirit in which it is intended, to strengthen collaborative relationships with our members.

Please feel free to share with your Boards and members.

Kevin

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**From:** Kevin Leonard <kevin.leonard@ncacc.org>
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 13, 2020 6:15 PM
**To:** Commissioners <Commissioners@ncacc.org>; County Managers <CountyManagers@ncacc.org>
**Cc:** Kevin Leonard <kevin.leonard@ncacc.org>; kaustin@yadkincountync.gov
**Subject:** State COVID-19 Response Legislation / Message to County Membership

Dear County Commissioners and County Managers:

We are writing to address an important issue that involves relationships with our municipal partners and our advocacy efforts to secure more direct assistance for counties.

As part of the legislation the NC General Assembly passed on May 2, legislative leaders gave counties the authority to control and disperse to cities and local partners the local government portion of COVID-19 response funding. We advocated for that discretion, and believe the Assembly made the right decision, primarily because county governments shoulder a greater amount of public health, human services and other first response efforts than our municipal partners. Counties provide these services to every resident within each county, including all who live within a municipal jurisdiction. Moreover, from a financial control and auditing stance, North Carolina's 100 counties operate as an arm of the state government, and administer financial controls and required reporting.

Since passage of the bill, we understand there may be a perception among some of our municipal partners that counties will intentionally withhold funds from municipalities. That is not the position held by the NCACC and we know counties are working hard to determine how to best share these funds in an equitable manner. We are aware that an intent of the Assembly was to provide recovery funds to local governments and other authorized non-profit

organizations for eligible COVID related expenses. We encourage counties to work together with their municipal and local partners, just as municipalities need to work with county and local partners to seek agreeable interlocal funding agreements, as we know many are already doing. We recognize that without guidance this is challenging. We are working hard to gain clearer guidance from OSBM to assist with these conversations and we will share examples of agreements when they are available.

We are increasingly concerned that this divisive rhetoric will undermine local recovery and harm relations between our counties and cities. It is also important to keep perspective about this current funding source. The funding is relatively small in comparison to the need and it is presently highly restricted. This is a time when local governments should be rallying together as we respond and recover from the COVID-19 crisis, especially as we seek additional resources and flexibility from the US Congress. The coming weeks will require our combined voice and combined advocacy efforts to request that our federal and state partners send counties and cities much needed funding and flexibility for the funds already approved. We must work together to achieve this goal.

As we navigate these uncharted waters, we encourage our county leaders that now is a time for us to recommit to collaboration, seek those commonalities that make us stronger and unify us. This is hard work, but it is the work of county leaders. Moreover, we know it is the spirit that has long lived in the heart and culture of our Association.

Sincerely,
Kevin Austin, NCACC President
Kevin Leonard, NCACC Executive Director

<image001.jpg> N.C. Association of County Commissioners
Phone (919) 715-4369 | Fax (919) 733-1065
**www.ncacc.org**

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