**From:** Brownie W. Newman
**To:** Fletcher Tove; Esther Manheimer
**Subject:** Fwd: remarks for 4 PM
**Date:** Wednesday, April 8, 2020 1:05:38 PM

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Fletch and Esther,

FYI — Here is a draft of what I plan to say at the 4 PM meeting today.

Brownie

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

> Good afternoon. On March 12, Buncombe County declared a local state of emergency to prepare for the threat of Covid-19. At that time, there were just 2,200 documented cases of Covid-19 in the United States. Now, less than one month later, there are more than 400,000 documented cases of Covid-19 in our country and we know the number of actual cases far exceeds those that have been documented. About 30,000 additional people are being sickened by Covid-19 each day across our county. More than 13,000 people in our country have already lost their lives to this highly contagious disease.
>
> Covid-19 represents a health crisis unlike any that we have faced during our lifetimes. While there is not currently a vaccine for this virus, the good news is that we have a strategy that is proven to significantly slow the transmission of Covid-19. Buncombe County's Stay Home – Stay Safe local order is helping to reduce the number of people who are getting sick.
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> We understand that this policy creates more than just inconvenience for many people and businesses. There is real pain and sacrifice involved for many. I want to express how grateful I am for the support and cooperation from individuals, families, businesses, and organizations in our community who are helping us implement this critical strategy which will help save lives and will ultimately reduce the damage to our economy and prepare us for recovery.
>
> Based on the recommendations of our county health officials, I am today signing an extension of Buncombe County's Stay Home – Stay Safe emergency order. The existing policy has been effective in significantly slowing the spread of Covid-19 but the effort must continue. The updated county policy will align in most regards with the state-wide policy issued by Governor Cooper after Buncombe County adopted our local policy. However, in several important regards, the Buncombe County order includes additional safeguards to provide additional protection for our community.
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> We look forward to the day when we can begin to re-open more businesses, to re-open our public schools, to restore traditional services within our houses of worship and resume public gatherings. But the focus for the time-being must be on limiting the spread of Covid-19. The more effective we are as a community in suppressing Covid-19, the more feasible it will become to restore public activities in the future.
> The County appreciates the cooperation of all the municipalities in this effort. Mayor Esther Manheimer is with us today and would like to also make some remarks.
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> Esther speaks – .....
>
> Brownie signs the order
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> I would not like to invite Fletcher Tove, the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Director for Buncombe County to outline the substance of the county's updated order.