

Jackson County Board of Commissioners
Resolution No. 06-20.19
Resolution in Support of the Request to Reopen Jackson County of Jackson

The Board of Commissioners of the County of Jackson, State of Michigan, states:

WHEREAS, since March 24, 2020, the people of the State of Michigan have been under a stay-at-home order and unable to go to work, gather in public or even visit family or friends in an effort to “flatten the curve” and attempt to stop the novel coronavirus that was infecting so many people and overwhelming our health care system in some urban areas; and

WHEREAS, Governor Whitmer has issued a series of Executive Orders addressing the Coronavirus pandemic, most recently known as the “Stay Home, Stay Safe” directives, and said directives are “one size fits all”; and

WHEREAS, it is undisputed that the novel coronavirus is highly communicable and dangerous primarily to those with comorbidity factors, but that “the curve” has been flattened and our health care system is capable of receiving and treating patients. What is also undisputed is that the current level of lockdown is unnatural and is itself the source of numerous other community problems, including rising rates of domestic violence, depression and suicides, and that this unreasonable extended prohibition on normal human interaction is having negative impact and making us less neighborly, less human and more isolated. Also, it is undisputed that many individuals and businesses are suffering significant economic harm from the ongoing indiscriminate lockdown. Finally, the response to the coronavirus is causing residents in our area to fear going to the hospital for their actual, real medical emergencies; and

WHEREAS, a harsh and protracted quarantine of the presumptively healthy for the sake of the few medically vulnerable is not sustainable in a society, and inasmuch as Jackson County meets the conditions of the MI Safe Start Plan to Reopen Michigan, it should be permitted to return to our natural freedoms; and

WHEREAS, a May 18, 2020 communication from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services directs that under Executive Orders 2020-69, 2020-71, 2020-91 and 2020-92, local Health Departments and law enforcement *shall* report to an appropriate licensing agency any violations of the above noted Executive orders; and

WHEREAS, in said communication from MDHHS, law enforcement is encouraged to “*...bar access to businesses and operations that fail to comply...*” with the above noted Executive Orders; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Jackson County Board of Commissioners refuses to participate in such license reporting requirements or barring access to businesses and operations that fail to comply with the continuing Executive Orders; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Jackson County Board of Commissioners directs the Administrator/Controller to notify department heads that no funds or resources under the control of the Board of Commissioners are to be expended for such enforcement action; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in order to protect the safety, welfare and rights of our County residents and businesses, and to state clearly our desire to reopen our community as soon as possible, the Jackson County Board of Commissioners, believing that it is inappropriate to indiscriminately lock areas whose demographics and cases are so dissimilar to the areas that were so badly affected, hereby requests the reopening Region 7 in the Governor’s MI Safe Start Plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Jackson County Clerk is hereby directed to transmit copies of this resolution to Governor Whitmer, State Representative Alexander and Lightner and Senate Majority Leader Mike Shirkey.

BE IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, which this Board affirms its support for the Jackson County Sheriff and the Jackson County Prosecuting Attorney’s use of sound legal discretion and supports the continued measured, thoughtful and humane approach in the enforcement of the prohibitions issued by the Governor.

This resolution was adopted by the Jackson County Board of Commissioners at a regular meeting held at the American 1 Event Center located at 128 West Ganson St., Jackson Michigan, Jackson County Michigan, by an affirmative vote of no less than FIVE of the members of the Jackson County Board of Commissioners who are serving on this 2nd day of June, 2020.

James E. Shotwell, Jr. Chairperson
Jackson County Board of Commissioners
June 2, 2020

STATE OF MICHIGAN)

) ss.

COUNTY OF JACKSON)

I, Amanda Kirkpatrick, the duly qualified and acting Clerk of the County of Jackson, Michigan, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a Resolution adopted by the County Board of Commissioners of the County of

Resolution No. 06-20.19 Jackson, State of Michigan, at a regular meeting held on June 2, 2020 at which meeting a quorum was present and remained throughout and that an original thereof is on file in the records of the County. I further certify that said meeting was conducted and public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in full compliance with the Open Meetings Act, being Act No. 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, and that the minutes of said meeting were kept and will be or have been made available as required by said Act.

Amanda Kirkpatrick, County Clerk