

RESOLUTION 2020-10

RESOLUTION REQUESTING GOVERNOR COOPER  
TO ALLOW LIMITED REOPENING OF BUSINESSES

WHEREAS, Governor Roy Cooper has taken the necessary steps to protect the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of North Carolina during the COVID-19 virus event; and

WHEREAS, the implementation of the orders issued by the Governor have substantially reduced the spread of the COVID-19 virus in North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of North Carolina have complied with the orders and have self-regulated even beyond the orders of the Governor; and

WHEREAS, the statistics in North Carolina clearly show that the spread of the COVID-19 virus has a direct relationship between the size of the community and the spread of the virus; and

WHEREAS, less densely populated areas have been under the same stay at home orders from the Governor as have the large Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas (SMSA's); and

WHEREAS, the stay at home orders have substantially impacted the economic stability of the business community and therefore, have and will have, a major negative impact on the revenues of local government needed to provide essential services to the citizens they serve; and

WHEREAS, Onslow County and the City of Jacksonville have currently experienced 1 fatality, 1 hospitalization, 38 positive cases, 1247 negative cases, 58 tests pending, and 21 recovered; and

WHEREAS, the role of government is not only to protect the health and safety of its citizens, but also the welfare of its citizens, which includes the economic viability of the businesses and the citizens that local governments serve; and

WHEREAS, the financial impact COVID-19 is having on businesses is dramatic and will result in many going out of business and their work force becoming unemployed; and

WHEREAS, it is time for local governments to be allowed to issue reasonable rules that can allow, in a planned and regulated fashion, the reopening of businesses in those communities that have and continue to experience a low impact from the COVID-19 virus; and

WHEREAS, as Americans we have a strong tradition of self-responsibility and self-regulation and value our freedom of choice; and

WHEREAS, government orders to stay at home are needed to a point, but should not and cannot overly restrict individual freedom nor remove individual responsibility;

NOW, THEREFORE, as Mayor of the City of Jacksonville and with the approval of the Jacksonville City Council, BE IT RESOLVED that:

1. Governor Roy Cooper is to be commended for his leadership during the COVID-19 crisis.
2. Governor Cooper is asked to allow local governments to create and implement their own regulations that would allow businesses to reopen in a controlled and managed fashion.
3. The City of Jacksonville will work with Onslow County to create a uniform plan for the reopening of businesses in Onslow County and the City of Jacksonville.
4. The local reopening plan will be designed to not only reopen businesses, but to continue to protect the citizens.
5. The Plan will become effective May 1, 2020 and will continue in place until the Governor lifts his stay at home order.

Adopted by the Jacksonville City Council in Regular Session this 21<sup>st</sup> day of April, 2020.