



TOWN COUNCIL
Special Meeting
Cape Charles Civic Center
via Electronic Communications
May 14, 2020
6:00 PM

This Special Meeting of the Cape Charles Town Council was held by video conference in accordance with Code of Virginia § 2.2-3708.2, subsection A.3, resulting from Governor Northam's March 12, 2020 declaration of a state of emergency for the Commonwealth of Virginia arising from the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. It was deemed impractical and unsafe to assemble physically due to the highly contagious nature of COVID-19.

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the possibility of re-opening the Town for business and rescission of Ordinance 20200416. The meeting was live-streamed on Facebook, as well as video-taped for viewing from the Town's website after processing. Public comments were accepted in writing prior to the meeting. Viewers could also submit their comments via Facebook Live and emails to the clerk.

At 6:09 p.m. Mayor William "Smitty" Dize, having established a quorum, called to order the Special Meeting of the Town Council. Physically present at the Civic Center were Town Clerk Libby Hume and Community Relations Manager Jennifer Lewis. In attendance via Zoom were Mayor Dize, Vice Mayor Bennett, Councilmen Bannon, Buchholz and Grossman, Councilwoman Holloway, and Town Manager John Hozey. There were no members of the public physically in attendance, but there were 117 viewers on Facebook Live.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (AGENDA ITEMS ONLY):

Town Clerk Libby Hume read 12 comments submitted in writing prior to the meeting or via Facebook during the public comments portion of the meeting. (Please see attached.)

SPECIAL MEETING ORDER OF BUSINESS:

A. Discussion re: Re-Opening the Town:

Town Manager John Hozey stated that these issues were difficult to address and went on as follows: i) His staff report contained an overview of events to this point; ii) Governor Northam issued Executive Order (EO) 61 on May 8. If the state was having discussions to re-open, Cape Charles needed to do the same; and iii) Was Cape Charles ready to welcome back visitors or did Cape Charles still want to keep visitors away? This was a policy call for the Town Council.

Mayor Dize stated the following: i) Two towns on the Eastern Shore, Chincoteague and Cape Charles, made the closure of vacation rentals mandatory. The Counties did not officially close nor mandate no vacationers. He didn't think Virginia Beach closed the vacation rentals either. The Governor did not mandate closure; and ii) Governor Northam's EO 61 would gradually re-open businesses. He didn't think the Town could continue to keep the vacationers from coming here. Council needed to re-open the Town.

Councilwoman Holloway commented as follows: i) Council had to look at the reality that the visitors were coming here anyway. There had been many day-trippers over the last two weekends. Now the campgrounds would be opening and the Town would get more visitors; ii) Cape Charles Main Street (CCMS) was working with businesses to help them get prepared. The town needed to do the best we could to get ready. It wasn't a decision of whether we want visitors or not. Unless we blocked the road and required identification, we couldn't keep everyone out; and iii) We needed to focus on how we could protect the residents.

John Hozey agreed that the Town had no control of visitors coming and greater numbers of visitors would be coming. The Governor closed the beach, Council closed the bathrooms, park and pier. Did Council want to continue with the closures of the beach, bathrooms and park?

Mayor Dize stated that Chincoteague was not opening their public bathrooms on May 15 and planned to allow the hotels and motels to re-open at 50% capacity. He felt the Town needed to follow suit to stay on course. If people came to Cape Charles, there still wasn't a lot for them to do. The beach was the draw to the Town and the Governor was keeping that closed.

Vice Mayor Bennett commented as follows: i) There was a lot to be considered; ii) He agreed with Councilwoman Holloway based on observation. If the park was re-opened, people could walk or sit; ii) The big issues were the grocery store and medical center with cases increasing in both counties; iii) We had a lot of senior citizens. He was in the age group most susceptible and also had a respiratory condition making him more susceptible; iv) The cases in Cape Charles were those who had traveled out of the area. Now the majority of cases in the area were those who lived here and worked in hot spots such as the nursing home and chicken plants; v) EO 61 provided guidelines on the types of businesses that could re-open and the Town needed to follow that; and vi) It was a difficult decision and at this point, he wasn't sure which way he was leaning. He wanted to listen to everyone's comments before making his decision.

Councilman Grossman stated the following: i) The way he read EO 61, he wasn't sure if it was enforceable. He didn't know we could limit numbers. The bottom line was that the Governor opened up more travel and allowances which would impact the citizens and businesses. The businesses needed to be protected and supported, including the short term rentals. He was not opposed to following the Governor's EO 61 to open up the Town; ii) As the Town opened up certain things, Council needed to determine how to maintain facilities and keep the toilet paper and hand sanitizer from disappearing; iii) We couldn't clean the bathrooms every two hours. Council needed to keep the safety of the staff in mind; iv) The Town offices and library needed to remain closed to the public; v) Allowing the short term rentals to re-open would ease the burden of enforcement from the law enforcement staff and allow them more time to enforce activities at the beach; vi) Appropriate signage needed to be placed; vii) Currently, rental inspections were on hold and a waiting list was being maintained. Once the short term rentals were being permitted, it would take time for one person to do all the inspections before a rental property could re-open; vii) We needed to have minimal interactions at the Harbor to ensure a safe environment for the staff; and viii) Enforcement was a factor and we needed to focus on what we could control. Council needed to loosen up on the rentals and businesses and they could conduct their own best practices. We needed to protect the Town's staff.

Councilman Bannon commented as follows: i) He was the lone octogenarian on Council and Cape Charles was a Town with many elderly citizens; ii) He felt sorry for the business owners and anyone who had invested in the Town. He owned a bed & breakfast for 30 years; and iii) In his conscience he wanted to re-open the Town but he would vote to keep things closed for now.

Councilman Buchholz stated the following: i) He agreed with Councilman Grossman; ii) The two campgrounds were opening this weekend; ii) Food Lion would be a constant issue throughout the summer. It happened every year. Don't go there on Fridays or Saturdays; iii) Short term rentals should be treated like any other business; and iv) The visitors were coming. It was out of our control, even if someone who was infected came to Town. We could slow things down by keeping the bathrooms closed along with the beach and park.

Councilwoman Holloway added the following: i) She appreciated this discussion; ii) Council needed to see the bigger picture. Business owners were still misunderstanding the Governor's EO 61 and the meaning of 50% capacity. Whatever direction was decided, Council needed to be clear in its expectations. If we re-opened short term rentals and lodging, a rack needed to be developed explaining the requirements. CCMS would work with the Town; and iii) She was in favor of closing down lodging, but now it had more to do with treating all businesses equally.

John Hozey stated that he appreciated hearing everyone's comments and continued as follows: i) The reason he requested this item be on the agenda was that a big picture discussion was needed before a decision could be made regarding short term rentals; ii) If Council decided to open the public bathrooms, his concern was that he didn't have the capability of keeping them sanitized. He intended to keep them clean but couldn't guarantee that it could meet the standards. Signs could be posted notifying people to use them at their own risk. Under normal circumstances, people knew the risks of using public bathrooms, but he wanted to reinforce the message; iii) His intention was to continue the status quo regarding Town operations for the next week or two. There had not been any problems and all business was getting done; iv) He added that if Council voted to allow short term rentals to re-open, the transient moorage at the Harbor would be re-opened as well; v) Staff was looking to install hand sanitizing stations around the Town. Some units were on order but not due to arrive until June. Supplies were difficult to obtain; vi) The Governor controlled the beach closure. The fishing pier needed to remain closed for another one to two weeks since it was still under construction; vii) Once businesses re-opened and more people came into Town, he had concerns with being able to maintain social distancing requirements. He contacted VDOT regarding the possible closure of a portion of Mason Avenue but they weren't agreeable. VDOT stated that the Town could submit a request to temporarily close the diagonal parking on the north end in order to extend the sidewalk to provide more space for people to walk; and viii) With the restaurants being permitted to re-open with outside dining, he had concerns regarding adequate space for their patrons. There weren't many options on Mason Avenue. Tables could be set up for people to enjoy their meals but who would assume the responsibility of keeping the area clean? Businesses would have to maintain the area.

Councilwoman Holloway stated that the business community needed to be updated. Precautions needed to be taken to keep the spaces clean and standards needed to be communicated regarding masks, physical distancing, etc. Businesses also needed their own policies. She went on to announce that CCMS received a \$25K grant from Northampton County for the portable restroom unit which was planned for Mason Avenue by the municipal parking lot exit. The Town ordered the unit. John Hozey added that unfortunately, there was not water and sewer connection at the location so the sewage would have to be pumped regularly and potable water would have to be brought in. One pump out was about \$150 so the cost would have to be budgeted. There was electrical nearby to run the air conditioning.

There was much discussion regarding enforcement at the beach with the current staffing in the police department.

John Hozey asked for clarification regarding opening the bathrooms.

Mayor Dize asked for Council's comments.

Vice Mayor Bennett felt that with the number of cases in the County, he was hesitant to do more than what was required in the Governor's EO 61. He wanted to make things as safe as possible, therefore, opted to keep the bathrooms closed. He went on to express his disagreement with Councilman Buchholz regarding Food Lion. He had never been to Food Lion in the summer when he couldn't find what he needed. There had not been any toilet paper for two months so how could businesses stock their bathrooms? There had not been any disinfectant for two months so how can the various areas be cleaned thoroughly? The status quo needed to be maintained until June 1.

Councilman Grossman stated his agreement with Vice Mayor Bennett's comments.

Councilwoman Holloway expressed her concern that it was a public health issue if the Town didn't have at least one bathroom available. She agreed that the beach bathroom remain closed until the Governor re-opened beaches, but one porta-potty was needed behind the library as soon as possible.

Vice Mayor Bennett interjected that he didn't see a porta-potty as a bathroom addition that it was not sanitary.

Councilman Grossman expressed his concern with keeping the porta-potty clean and keeping staff safe from exposure if a visitor came in who was affected with the virus. There was much discussion regarding this issue. Councilman Grossman stated his agreement to obtaining a porta-potty as long as staff was provided with the necessary equipment to protect them.

Councilman Buchholz was in agreement with obtaining a porta-potty.

B. *Rescission of Ordinance 20200416:*

John Hozey stated that this item was straight forward and an opportunity for Council to relax the restrictions on short term rentals and other lodging as a result of the Governor's EO 61.

Mayor Dize read Ordinance 20200514.

Motion made by Councilman Grossman, seconded by Councilman Buchholz, to adopt Ordinance 20200514 repealing Ordinance 20200416 which temporarily closed short term rental operations in the Town.

There was discussion as follows: i) Vice Mayor Bennett stated that the public comments this evening were about 50/50 in regard to re-opening the rentals. He still felt that the Town needed to wait another two weeks to see if anything changed. He was not in favor; ii) Councilwoman Holloway asked about properties that could accommodate 14 or more people. John Hozey replied that the Governor's EO stated immediately family members only; iii) Councilman Grossman stated that he was in favor of adoption of the Ordinance to treat short term rental businesses the same as other businesses; iv) Councilman Buchholz stated that he was in favor; v) Mayor Dize stated that the campgrounds were being permitted to re-open at 50% capacity and the short term rentals in the County never had to close and their visitors were coming into the Town. It was unfair to the businesses in the Town to keep them closed; vi) Vice Mayor Bennett noted that the density in Cape Charles was much higher than other areas in the County; vii) Councilman Grossman reiterated that there was a backlog of rental inspections that would have to be done and it would take time to complete them all; and viii) Councilman Bannon stated that he was not in favor of adopting the ordinance.

The motion was approved by majority vote. Roll call vote: Bannon, no; Bennett, no; Buchholz, yes; Grossman, yes; Holloway, yes.

John Hozey informed Council that he would draft a public notice with a general update to go out tomorrow. It would be mailed to all the businesses who were sent the first mailing and posted on all venues currently used by the Town.

Motion made by Councilman Buchholz, seconded by Vice Mayor Bennett, to adjourn the Town Council Special Meeting. The motion was approved by unanimous vote. Roll call vote: Bannon, yes; Bennett, yes; Buchholz, yes; Grossman, yes; Holloway, yes.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Mayor Dize

Town Clerk

**Comments Provided in Writing
May 14, 2020 Town Council Special Meeting**

Diana Gonzalez, 325 Madison Avenue

Subject: short term rentals

My name is Diana Gonzalez. I and my husband reside at 325 Madison Avenue. We are among those who rent their homes during the summer via Airbnb.

First, I want to express my appreciation of your work to protect we who live here with cautionary measures, balanced with goodwill efforts like the Porch Happy Hour, which we greatly enjoyed. I am an almost daily user of the Central Park walkway for exercise now that the YMCA is closed and who knows when our own YMCA will get built? It has been a source of comfort to have at least the beach and park open for exercise. I notice someone asked about opening the tennis courts, and I agree that limiting the number of player to 4 at a time would address social distancing and lack of contact and add another source of exercise.

Second, I want to urge you in the strongest possible terms to resolve when short-term rentals can resume at this meeting. I cancelled all our April, May, and early June reservations but have reservations beginning June 13. Because our house has 5 bedrooms, we fill it with extended families. They are all asking whether they can come, and I have no firm answer for them. I am prepared to issue full refunds, but courtesy demands that I answer in a timely manner. That includes when the governor expects to open the beach. Is that part of phase II? Phase III? What is that schedule?

For that reason - although I realize there are "many moving parts" when it comes to dealing with the virus - a firm, uniform, clear decision is really, really needed now, not later. Even if you must kick the can down the road and make decisions in 3 or 4-week increments, it would help those of us who are juggling families who want to be here so they do not feel jerked around and we are all on the same page as a town.

Thanks and bless you as you wrestle through this.

Cordially,

Diana Gonzalez

Daniel Goffigan, 10 Kings Bay Drive

Subject: May 14th Special Meeting

My name is Dan Goffigan and we are property owners at 10 Kings Bay Drive. I cannot imagine how difficult governing must be during these challenging times. One of those difficult decisions must have been to create an ordinance making vacation rentals a misdemeanor, "Short-term rentals may not operate within Cape Charles until the stay-at-home order is lifted" (Public Message #11). According to Governor Northam, the stay-at-home order is going to be lifted on Friday and his new order will be a "safer-at-home" order. We hope the Town Council honors their original decision to allow short-term rental to operate once the stay-home-order is lifted.

I look forward to watch the meeting and thank you for your time.

Very Respectfully,

Dan Goffigan

Ryan and Amanda Marable, Peach Retreat

Subject: Vacation Rentals

First, thank you all for your hard work during this uncertain time.

I don't have a date that I think we should open rentals, but I have a couple things I wanted to share for when they are open.

The vacation home owners are a part of this community that love cape Charles. We all bought homes here because we love the town so much and wanted to invest ourselves here, raise children that know it as a second home, and bring value to the town. Many of us plan to call this our permanent residence one day. When we do open we want to do so responsibly. We are already planning extra time for deep cleaning, filter changes, as well as recommendations on masks, sanitizing and hand washing reminders. Things we can do to protect our guests and our neighbors.

We want to provide clear information on the current regulations in town so they know what to expect and also what is expected of them as guests.

We are our Main Street and small business cheerleaders. We plan to continue to share as much information as we can through all channels we have about the businesses in town and why each of them are so special. We also continue to support them to the best of our ability during this time.

Please use us as an avenue that can help open the town safely. We want nothing more than the health, safety and continued success of the greatest small town we know. I believe we can all come through this stronger if we work together.

Stay safe and well,
Ryan and Amanda Marable
Peach Retreat

Anonymous Resident

May 10, 2020

RECEIVED MAY 13 2020

Cape Charles, Virginia 23310

To: Town Council of Cape Charles
Mayor Diaz
Town Manager

I am senior citizen who lives in the Town of Cape Charles,
I am writing to you regarding my concerns about the virus
known as Covid 19.

As you know this virus is impacting many different people
and businesses. I am sure that there are people who are
advocating for you to open our town. I am not one of them.
My home is in between two weekly rental properties...one that
accommodates up to 15 people and another that accommodates
up to 10 people. If and when, the town allows them to
open, 25 new people will surround me each week. I find
this frightening. Already going to the Food Lion is
challenging. The shelves are often empty and many needed
items are in short supply. If visitors are allowed to
come, this will be even worse.

Visitors have homes where they can stay. They do not need
to come to Cape Charles. Those of us who live here do not
have the option of going to another place.

Thank you for reading my letter.

Etta Kaye Pruitt

Subject: Short term rentals

I hope you will not rescind your short term rental policy. What will attract them? We have grocery shortages,
no beach, park and other activities. Stay home and stay safe! Keep us safe.

Capt. JP Minderlein

Subject: Thursday Council Meeting

It is time to reopen Cape Charles and allow Airbnb owners the ability to start accepting rentals. As a frequent
visitor for guided fishing trips, it simply does not make sense to prohibit privately owned accommodations
from accepting guests.

If I'm forced to stay outside of Cape Charles in order to make my early June trip I can assure you my money will not make it into Cape Charles.

End this nonsense now!

Deprivation of Rights Under Color of Law

- Section 242 of Title 18 makes it a crime for a person acting under color of any law to willfully deprive a person of a right or privilege protected by the Constitution or laws of the United States.

For the purpose of Section 242, acts under "color of law" include acts not only done by federal, state, or local officials within their lawful authority, but also acts done beyond the bounds of that official's lawful authority, if the acts are done while the official is purporting to or pretending to act in the performance of his/her official duties. Persons acting under color of law within the meaning of this statute include police officers, prison guards and other law enforcement officials, as well as judges, care providers in public health facilities, and others who are acting as public officials. It is not necessary that the crime be motivated by animus toward the race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin of the victim.

The offense is punishable by a range of imprisonment up to a life term, or the death penalty, depending upon the circumstances of the crime, and the resulting injury, if any.

TITLE 18, U.S.C., SECTION 242

Whoever, under color of any law, statute, ordinance, regulation, or custom, willfully subjects any person in any State, Territory, Commonwealth, Possession, or District to the deprivation of any rights, privileges, or immunities secured or protected by the Constitution or laws of the United States, ... shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than one year, or both; and if bodily injury results from the acts committed in violation of this section or if such acts include the use, attempted use, or threatened use of a dangerous weapon, explosives, or fire, shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than ten years, or both; and if death results from the acts committed in violation of this section or if such acts include kidnapping or an attempt to kidnap, aggravated sexual abuse, or an attempt to commit aggravated sexual abuse, or an attempt to kill, shall be fined under this title, or imprisoned for any term of years or for life, or both, or may be sentenced to death.

Capt JP Minderlein

Scott Peacher, Bel Air, MD

Subject: Meeting 5/14/20

My name is Scott Peacher, I have been coming to Cape Charles twice a year to fish for 6 years. A group of us either rent a house or stay in the hotel. We have a trip set up for May 29-30 to fish with a friend and guide. We also have the following weekend booked with him. We cannot make accommodations or be sure we can even fish with him because of these virus rules.

Please open the town up for business again. Some of the fishing guides operate out of Florida in the winter. They have lost all of their income for two months in Florida and are begging for rules to change or go bankrupt. That will not be good for any business in Cape Charles.

People are conditioned to use masks and social distance when in public. Please let people make a living and save their livelihoods.

My wife and I bought 5 building lots at Deep Creek Lake, Maryland in 1999. We built a house and had many great years there. Deep Creek Lake is a 4 season resort area and it has not recovered and this is why:

1- vacations are the first thing that people cut out in bad times.

2- vacation homes are not essential and so payments stop and foreclosures happen.

3- resort revenues dry up.

4- seasonal business income dries up, bankruptcies happen.

Resort areas take two to three times longer to recover from something like this. Please save Cape Charles and open it up.

The shut down was designed to get hospitals up and running with the proper equipment. We now know that has happened and it is not as bad as predicted.

Property values at Deep Creek Lake are back to 1999 levels. End the shutdown.

Respectfully,
Scott Peacher

Jo Ann Bawiec

Subject: Short term rentals

I support continuing the restriction on short term rentals until the beaches are reopened by the Governor.

Cape Charles has limited resources when it comes to enforcing the current restrictions with limited visitors in our town. Under Phase I, restaurants and retail are also limited in the amount of patrons they are able to serve. Opening up short term rentals would create a greater strain on the limited resources within the town and its ability to comply with Phase I restrictions.

Lori Smith

Subject: 5-14 Special Meeting

Good morning, I am not in favor of reopening the town for short term rentals at this time. As Cape Charles is just reopening tomorrow, I believe that a period of time is needed to ensure the protocols are being successfully followed and enforced. Monitoring the compliance of the current Executive Order has already been challenging at restaurants and on the beach with little to no visitors here, let alone having the numerous short term rentals reopened. It seems to make more sense from a safety and resource standpoint, to keep them closed until the beaches reopen.

Thank you.

Phillip & Jordan Dail, 117 Randolph Avenue & 202 Madison Avenue

I am writing to you to encourage you to support all the small businesses and property owners of Cape Charles. We are owners of Cape Charles Candy Company and also two homes in town that are rented for vacations. Early on in our adventure here we recognized the great business opportunities that are present in this great town. We chose to invest our time and hard earned resources in business that supported the continued revival of Cape Charles. Our candy store has ventured into online sales and opened for several hours on Saturday, with a great response from our great customers. However, this is only a stopgap measure and is not sustainable, we need 100% support from our elected officials to actively act on our behalf of our right to earn a living. Our family, like so many other small businesses, completely relies on these businesses to provide income for food, shelter, medical care, education and other necessary expenses. We implore the Mayor and the town council to help us (small businesses) open as soon as possible.

Regarding our vacation rentals, this situation is similarly as dire. Both homes are investment property that require the income from seasonal rentals to remain solvent. Like many homes in Cape Charles these homes are 100 years old and require significant maintenance, we have spent countless hours restoring these homes to their former glory and are proud of them and their contribution to Cape Charles' historic district. In order to finance these undertakings, many of the seasonal owners rent their homes to defray that cost. Our homes are still booked with people looking forward to their annual vacation in Cape Charles, please help us be able to allow these guests to come to town and support our local businesses and our town.

We have formed a Facebook group to connect with other homeowners in town that seasonally rent their homes, with the purpose of sharing best practices, contacts and other information. Our current discussion is (1) we need to get to a point where Cape Charles allows guests to stay in town, (2) the policies regarding reopening this need to be clearly and consistently communicated from the town (updated at least once a week, even if there are no changes) in every channel available, so that everyone is on the same page, (3) what can we as homeowners contribute to make residents of town and guests to town feel comfortable in this transitional time frame?

As homeowners of 202 Madison and 117 Randolph we commit to the following:

- We will not allow guests to stay while the town prevents vacation rentals.

- Thorough cleaning between guests to include:
 - Disinfectant cleaning of all surfaces (counters, tables, dressers)
 - All linens will be washed with bleach, bedspreads & quilts will be removed and replaced
- with washable blankets
- Wipe down of all “high touch” surfaces
- Convey any CDC guidelines that are in affect during a particular time frame
- Relay any Town or County requirements that may be specific to our locality.
- Provide a list of suggestions for guests to be mindful of the residents of Cape Charles during this transition.

There have been several occasions of anonymous tip/complaints of “supposed renters” in actuality owners, general shaming of people/children for not wearing masks correctly, confrontations of children riding bikes in or near the park, all happening to people who belong to our community. This behavior is not conducive to a healthy town and needs strong leadership to correct and promote thriving community. Local support from our town council and the mayor during this time will be crucial to our ability to continue operating our small businesses in this great town.

Thank you for your support,
Phillip & Jordan Dail
Cape Charles Candy Company

Ellen O'Brien, 631 Monroe Avenue

Subject: Short term rentals and phase one opening

I am writing to the Town Council as a resident of Cape Charles.

Like many of our citizens, I want our town to return to normal, open and be prosperous.

Typically, my family travels to, and spends most of their summer in Cape Charles. Sharing memory making moments with them is something I cherish and look forward to.

I have seen first hand how the virus has brought on stress and hardship for our citizens and the businesses in our town. We are trying to navigate through uncharted waters and people are not fond of uncertainty.

But we can be certain of many things:

We can be certain that social distance and wearing face masks helps to reduce the chance of becoming infected with the COVID virus.

We can also be certain that far too many Americans have died from this horrible virus.

We can be certain that with more testing, we will find more people who are COVID positive.

In fact, today marks the greatest increase in COVID positive cases in Accomack County.

		total cases	hospitalized	death
Eastern Shore	Accomack	593	26	8
	Northampton	184	12	6

The state of Virginia is averaging about a 14% increase daily, which has been argued to be skewed by areas with high positive rates (Northern Va) regardless...it is still higher than the 10% rate that was recommended by health officials for 'safe opening.'

State wide the increase in deaths today (28) is higher than the states seven day average (26.6), in fact, we have had 3 straight days with deaths that are above the average. We have not plateaued, nor has the virus reached it's peak in our area.

This is not a virus that effects **other** people, it will and has come to our community, it will take the lives of our seniors and those who are vulnerable. It will cause more havoc and destruction to our small community than the mere inconvenience of missing the summer rental season.

Our health care infrastructure is not prepared to deal with an influx of COVID + patients requiring hospitalization, nor is our Emergency Mgmt System equipped to transport patients across the bay for medical care. We cannot be short sighted and rush to open, particularly when we have not seen a decrease in hospitalizations or death.

Please maintain the restrictions on short term rentals, and support our sister county of Accomack in the delay phase 1 opening.

Our lives, our community and our futures depend on it.

Respectfully,
Ellen O'Brien RN

Lisa Guzzardo (via Facebook Live)

Will Food Lion be prepared to handle rental volume when they are having issues now? Current residents are having trouble buying what we need now.

Who will ensure renters and rental owners follow these rules?