From: Mayor Billy
To: bbethune@cityofmyrtlebeach.com
Subject: [External]What can we learn? and
Date: Wednesday, June 3, 2020 10:00:49 PM

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What can we learn and how can we use what we learn to make Beaufort an even Better Community, setting an example for generations to come?

In the words of one of the organizers

"you do not have to ruin your city to deliver your message"

Wednesday, June 2, 2020

Dear Beaufort and Friends:

To say the least, it's been a stressful week but I also believe it's been a beneficial week for all.

Most likely due to Memorial Day Weekend -- where many of us must have taken time off from social distancing and not using masks over the holiday --

additional cases of coronavirus infection popped up beyond where they were.

I am not writing to alarm you, but rather to remind you that the pandemic is far from over and that we should continue to be cautious and protect ourselves.

I fully understand that as the weather heats up, masks get hot and are less comfortable than we all would like. But this is not as uncomfortable as living with an elevated temperature, a constant cough, difficulty breathing, other discomforts or hurting others.

Quite frankly I hate wearing a mask: it's hot, unnatural, sometimes pulls my hearing aids out of place and feels awkward. But I know that I wear my mask so that in the event I am unknowing carrier of infection, I am not passing it along to another person and I expect the same respect from others.

We have distributed many masks and have more on the way. Let us know if you need one. They are free for those who will wear them.

Honk for Justice

Perhaps the most positive development, since it started on Saturday, is the steady stream of a diverse group of Beaufort citizens joining and rotating among those demonstrating for social justice at the corner of Ribaut Road and Boundary Street in front of City Hall. Men, woman and children alike holding signs asking us to "honk for justice." And thanks to the honkers.

Over the past few days, I have made some new friends among whom we've agreed we would work together to avoid potential outside agitators with each pledging to stay in touch should we hear of anything coming our way. We have also agreed that violence, bad mouthing our outstanding law enforcement officers or even the threat of discord are not tolerable since we want unity and not division to make our community stronger.

The Beaufort Police Department has taken time to meet with the demonstrators and support them as long as laws are observed and there remains an open dialogue about a united community to strive for a more just society. Police officers stop by to visit, honk their support and one day even cooked hotdogs and hamburgers for the demonstrators. They are on call if needed and will respect our right to protest, demonstrate or otherwise express ourselves in a lawful and safe manner.

My next step is to determine how to, overtime, transition the demonstrations into a sustainable community building initiative because the next generation of leaders need to prepare for the future when my generation phases out.

Today another contingent of young people joined the group. About 30 students from Beaufort Academy met downtown and marched to the corner of Boundary and Ribaut Road to join the others, many of whom have been out everyday.

I understand and accept the reality that some people do not agree with the perception that our American justice system is broken and do not understand why others are

demonstrating with passion about their views and/or personal experiences. We do not have to agree. One of the great things about our nation and I believe our City is that we can disagree, and agree to disagree.

Violence against others or destruction of personal property, however, is something I hope we agree is not tolerable and we can not let that happen in Beaufort.

Peaceful actions, regardless of individual values, make us all better people and our hometown a better place to live, work and raise our families. And you can be sure that I will do all within my power to keep it that way.

The Coronavirus and the demonstrations will not last forever. By working together and remaining respectful of others, Beaufort will always be the best hometown in the world.

By the way, thanks to all for sticking together through these uncertain times.

Be Well. Be safe and be considerate. That's what I am trying to do.

Best Wishes,

Billy K-

In the news:

From WJCL, Savannah

BEAUFORT, S.C. (WJCL) —
At the corner of Boundary and Ribaut Road, a symphony of car horns could be heard on Tuesday afternoon.

Every honk serving as a reminder that someone passing by stands alongside the protestors, rallying together to protest the recent deaths of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery and Breonna Taylor.

The protesters, made up of Beaufort County teens and long-time natives, took part in just one of the many protests and demonstrations going on throughout the country, and one of several over the past days near Georgia's coastal empire or South Carolina's Lowcountry.
“With whatever is going on in the news now using violence, we’re doing the opposite with love, diversity and unity,” TyReisha Blue said, a recent high school graduate and mother.

Everyone from kids to adults could be seen standing together, but for the parents, they are standing for much more than just themselves.

“If I don’t stand out here, who will keep my kids safe?” asks Shaun Birch, a father of four from the Beaufort area.
The nation’s protests have reignited the conversation over racial and social injustice, as well as police brutality.
Parents at Tuesday’s protest say they have found it hard to explain the protests throughout the country to their kids, as they’re still trying to find the answers themselves.
“As a mother, it feels like I have to raise my kid in a way

she shouldn’t have to be raised," Blue said.

“They see what I see, but from a young age, so I don’t want them to be next," Timothy Garvin said, one of the protest's organizers. "It’s hard to be a black man out here, and it’s hard explaining unjust things to people that haven’t had that experience yet.”

The protesters, who have been joined by Mayor Billy Keyserling on previous protests, are continuing throughout the week, as Lowcountry parents continue to figure out how to talk about these topics appropriately with their children.

“I have to raise her saying 'You’ll have to go through this. If you do, if you don’t, be mindful of people who do, be mindful of who you’re around, this can happen anywhere,'” Blue said.

The following business have free masks for the public:

Bill's Liquor and Fine Wines
132 Sea Island Parkway

Bricks on Boundary
1422 Boundary Street

Lulu Burgess
917 Bay Street

Beaufort River Glass

812 Bay Street

Grounded Running
2139 Boundary Street, #108

Mobile 1 Lube Express
181 Sea Island Parkway

95 Praise Radio
907 Craven Street

Zen Den
707 Paris Avenue
Port Royal

Macdonald Marketplace
853 Sea Island Parkway
St. Helena Island, SC 29920

Collectors Antique Mall, LLC
102 C Sea Island Pkwy
Ladys Island

FWDG
745 Robert Smalls Parkway
Beaufort, SC

Healthy Churches Consortium
Dale, SC
Mrs. Shirley Perry
shirleybperry@yahoo.com
Distribution Center to be determined

Atelier on Bay
203 West Street

Chapman's Grocery
West Street

Across from Old Bull Tavern

Budget Print
510 Carteret Street

City Nails
67 Ladys Island Drrive

Otis Dry Goods
202-A Carteret Street

Please shop local and recognize these businesses who serve as a best practices model for others

If you are able to make a financial donation to support the Mask up Beaufort project, please send of give on line a tax deductible donation to **Beaufort Pride of Place**.

By check:
Make payable to "City of Beaufort, Pride of Plaee" and mail it to 1911 Boundary Street, Beaufort, SC 29902

On line, go to:
Beaufort-Pride-of-Place
https://www.officialpayments.com/pc_template_cobrand.jsp?body=pc_step2_amount_body.jsp&OWASP_CSRFTOKEN=VGHQ-0QCA-QFWW-D2JT-HXWR-6O68-NXN6-5MGB

Click on "donate" and note for "Masks"

Thanks for doing what you are able to help us make sure that everyone in the Beaufort area who wants to wear a mask can have on free of charge.

Be Well. Stay Safe, Beaufort

Mask up to protect yourself and others and congratulate in a manner you feel most comfortable the class of 2020

Behind her hair this young woman's t-shirt reads: **"LEADERSHIP, CHOOSE IT, OWN IT LIVE IT"**

Billy Keyserling, Mayor
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