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NEWS RELEASE

**County of Culpeper
302 N. Main Street
Culpeper, VA 22701**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: John Egertson, AICP, County Administrator

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March 16, 2020

The County of Culpeper is closely monitoring the coronavirus pandemic. We are in constant coordination with numerous agencies so that we remain aware at all times of potential risks posed by the spread of the virus. We continue to monitor alerts through our Culpeper County Department of Emergency Services in coordination with the Virginia Department of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Virginia Department of Emergency Management and other agencies. Additionally, we are working with our community partners such as the hospital, law enforcement and our Volunteer Fire and Rescue Departments in a team effort to prepare for an organized response to this pandemic.

The County of Culpeper will continue to provide services to our citizens. It is our duty and responsibility to provide services in a safe and reliable manner. The Culpeper County E911 Center and Emergency Services Department are providing

vital services to the community during emergency events as well as ensuring continuity of law enforcement and all of our vital services.

In an abundance of caution, many steps have been taken to minimize public risk. We have an equally important responsibility at this time to minimize the spread of the coronavirus by educating employees and exercising plans that reduce the potential for exposure. We will ensure that County government is prepared for responding to a widespread outbreak and have taken the following precautions:

- Reviewed and updated emergency response plans to ensure preparedness even in worst case scenarios.
- Assessed supply needs, reviewed staffing plans, and directed all County Department heads to develop continuity of service plans in the event of limited staffing and implementation of teleworking policies.
- Expanded information technology (IT) capabilities in support of an increase in employees working remotely.
- Restricted employee work-related travel and attendance of any out of County conferences or large events of any kind.
- Cancelled all Parks and Recreation Programming until further notice.
- Educated employees about basic hygiene and social distancing practices at home and at work that prevent the spread of the virus.

We will weather this event as a community, working together. We ask everyone to please do their part by limiting interactions with large groups of people, practicing good hygiene and remaining vigilant in following all of the guidance being provided.

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