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# From the BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

**WASHINGTON COUNTY**

**To the RESIDENTS OF WASHINGTON COUNTY**

The Washington County Commissioners wish to express their position concerning Washington County’s placement in the red level on the State of Colorado COVID dial.  While acknowledging the health threat posed by COVID-19, the Commissioners understand the severe impact a red-level designation will have on County residents and County businesses.  The red designation does not alter the County’s stance regarding enforcement of state COVID-related mandates.  The Commissioners encourage individuals and business owners to make decisions that will best protect themselves, their families, their business interests, their fellow citizens, and their community.  The Commissioners continue to believe that individuals should retain the right to determine how to conduct themselves and their businesses and that the government should provide guidance and information – not mandates - upon which people can make informed and responsible decisions.

The County will not enforce mandates that infringe upon personal liberties and freedoms, including mandates that restrict freedom of movement, freedom of assembly, freedom of religion and worship, freedom of education, and the freedom to pursue a livelihood.  It is important for the County’s residents, business owners, and visitors to recognize that the County lacks authority to alter or overrule state mandates.  It is also important to recognize that the District Attorney’s Office and the Sheriff’s Office are independent entities, which are not controlled by the County Commissioners.  The position expressed in this statement reflects the position of the Washington County Board of County Commissioners on behalf of Washington County and not that of the Offices of the District Attorney or the Sheriff.  In addition, the State of Colorado and its related public health authorities have jurisdiction to enforce their own orders and mandates regardless of Washington County’s stance concerning enforcement.  Therefore, everyone in Washington County should be aware that their decisions remain subject to enforcement by entities separate and apart from Washington County.

The Commissioners encourage everyone to take responsible measures to prevent further spread of the virus, including physically distancing oneself from others, engaging in regular hand washing and sanitizing, covering coughs, wearing masks, remaining home when sick, and cleaning surfaces and commonly used areas.  The Commissioners will continue to support the interests of all members of the Washington County community through this unprecedented time.

The BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS,

Tony Wells, Chairman District #1, Leland Willeke, District #2

Lea Ann Laybourn, District #3