

County of Dinwiddie

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

W. KEVIN MASSENGILL

FOUNDED 1752

January 5, 2021

Dear Citizens and Friends of Dinwiddie County:

The year 2020, and my term as Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, began with a flood in the newly constructed Government Center, which set the tone for things to come.

The COVID-19 pandemic took everyone by surprise. I am proud of the County's immediate response to closing buildings to the public and implementing additional safety measures to protect citizens and employees. Thanks to our top-notch Information Technology team, we moved quickly to a virtual environment and citizens experienced no interruption in service. We quickly learned that many functions of government could operate remotely, but some are best performed on-site. To ensure the health and safety of citizens and employees, additional measures and precautions were implemented in these areas. Board meetings were conducted virtually and when it was deemed safe for Board members and staff to meet in-person, we continue to offer the virtual option for the public.

In true Dinwiddie County fashion, the community came together to support those in need. In May, the Dinwiddie Gives campaign collected more than 1,650 pounds of food and \$58,000 for local food pantries. Our Department of Parks & Recreation teamed up with Social Services and local restaurants to provide hot meals to seniors in need. The Department of Economic Development developed a special listing of local restaurants and store providing curbside, take-out, and delivery during the pandemic; and the Industrial Development Authority created grant opportunities for local businesses struggling due closure or decreases in patronage.

Dinwiddie County used state and federal support to provide personal protective equipment to churches and assembled PPE kits that were distributed to citizens at manned convenience sites. CARES Act funding supported families in need through the Department of Social Services. This funding also supported COVID-related facility upgrades, virtual and workforce investments, businesses and non-profit grants, public safety and schools. CARES funding allowed the County to publish two COVID-19 Resource Guides. These guides were mailed to all residential addresses in Dinwiddie County. To support families with virtual learning needs, the County expanded public WiFi around government facilities. This provides access to reliable, high-speed Internet from the safety of your vehicle. While not a permanent solution, it does bridge a gap. Despite the pandemic, Dinwiddie County's broadband project has continued. RiverStreet Networks is working to establish a wireless solution to areas of the County currently unserved by broadband. The three-year project is broken into phases and we are nearing completion of Phase 1.

In May, Dinwiddie's Advisory Task Force on Equity and Racial Reconciliation was established. This group has been tasked with identifying areas in which there remains work to be done, and will then develop strategies to address these needs. I serve on this Task Force and can honestly say that the group is working hard to identify and address the important issues that affect us all.

The year 2020 will go down in history as difficult, but as is usually the case, good comes out of challenging times. Dinwiddie County's work with the Faith-Based Initiative earned the award of "Best Small County" from the Virginia Association of Counties. We are honored by this distinction and appreciate that VACo recognizes what we have known all along...Dinwiddie County is a great place to spend a lifetime.

It has been my pleasure to serve as 2020 Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, and I pray that 2021 brings health, happiness and prosperity for you and your family.

Sincerely,

Daniel D. Lee
Dinwiddie County Board of Supervisors