

Young, Bernie C

From: Dr. Ed Carlson <acegang1@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 7:12 AM
To: Acegang1@aol.com
Subject: [BULK] Georgia + FL

Importance: Low

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Florida News 6 spoke with Dr. Raul Pino with Florida Department of Health.
He confirmed **re-tests are included in the total testing**

numbers, so when you see 300,000

tests, that may not mean 300,000 people.

Interesting ~ April, spike in deaths day or 2 days after Social Security checks deposited. And each of 4 weeks, spike on Thursday and sometimes Friday.

Georgia is a useful experiment in re-opening and fact gathering.

Georgia Department of Health

<https://dph.georgia.gov/covid-19-daily-status-report>

(Looks more thorough than Florida <https://floridahealthcovid19.gov/#latest-stats>)

904 DEATHS

19 had No Underlying Conditions -

vast majority of these in the 60-80 ages, plus 89 and 90 yr. olds.

Perspective from Dr. Shiva - 4 Groups - Treatment and PREVENTION for each.

1. Covid-19 with Underlying Conditions
2. Covid-19 NO Underlying Conditions
3. NO Covid-19 with Underlying Conditions

4. NO Covid-19 with NO Underlying Conditions

Best of ALL,

Dr. Ed

Jungle Terrace Civic Association, Inc.

West Neighborhoods United, Inc.

Young, Bernie C

From: Dr. Ed Carlson <acegang1@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 7:07 AM
To: Acegang1@aol.com
Subject: [BULK] Has SWEDEN got its science right? BBC

Importance: Low

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A Learning Opportunity

Coronavirus: Has Sweden got its science right?

BBC News, Stockholm
[52395866](https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-52395866)

25 April 2020 [https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-](https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-52395866)



Image caption Sweden's schools have remained open while neighbouring countries shut theirs for weeks

Sweden's strategy to keep large parts of society open is widely backed by the public. It has been devised by scientists and backed by government. Not all the country's virologists are convinced.

There is no lockdown here. Photos have been shared around the world of bars with crammed outdoor seating and long queues for waterfront ice cream kiosks, and yet it is a myth that life here goes on "as normal".

On the face of it little has shut down. But data suggests the vast majority of the population have taken to voluntary social distancing, which is the crux of Sweden's strategy to slow the spread of the virus.

Usage of public transport has dropped significantly, large numbers are working from home, and most refrained from travelling over the Easter weekend. The government has also banned gatherings of more than 50 people and visits to elderly care homes.

Around 9 in 10 Swedes say they keep at least a metre away from people at least some of the time, up from seven in 10 a month ago, according to a major survey by polling firm Novus.



How serious is Sweden's outbreak?

Viewed through the eyes of the Swedish Public Health Agency, the way people have responded is one to be celebrated, albeit cautiously.

The scientists' approach has led to weeks of global debate over whether Sweden has adopted a sensible and sustainable plan, or unwittingly plunged its population into an experiment that is causing unnecessary fatalities, and could fail to keep the spread of Covid-19 under control.



In Stockholm, the epicentre of the virus so far, cases have largely plateaued, although there was a spike at the end of this week, put down partly to increased testing.

There is still space in intensive care units and a new field hospital at a former conference venue is yet to be used.



Media caption Dr Tegnell argues Sweden's strategy is largely working

"To a great part, we have been able to achieve what we set out to achieve," says state epidemiologist Anders Tegnell. "Swedish healthcare keeps on working, basically with a lot of stress, but not in a way that they turn patients away."

In contrast with other countries where political leaders have fronted the national response to the crisis, Dr Tegnell has led the majority of news conferences.

His tone is typically matter of fact, with a strong focus on figures, and few mentions of the emotional impact of the crisis on victims and their families.

But the Swedish Public Health Agency has maintained high approval ratings throughout the pandemic.



Why Sweden chose a different path

Sweden's decision to leave larger parts of society open than most of Europe came after Dr Tegnell's team used simulations which anticipated a more limited impact of the virus in relation to population size than those made by other scientists, including those behind a major report by Imperial College, London.

That report apparently swayed the UK government to introduce a lockdown.



Image copyright **BBC NEWS** Denmark and Norway are 1/2 the population of Sweden, UK is 6x the population.

In addition, the Swedish Public Health Agency pushed the idea early on that a large proportion of cases were likely to be mild.

But it denied its strategy was based on the overall goal of herd immunity.

A core aim was to introduce less stringent social distancing measures that could be maintained over a long period time. Schools for under-16s have remained open to enable parents to keep working in key areas.

All other Nordic countries opted for stricter temporary restrictions, although some of these have since been relaxed.

- **Can you compare different countries?**
- **Why Denmark is taking steps to open up again**
- **Danes rush for haircuts as lockdown eases**



What do the numbers tell us?

Sweden, with a population of 10 million, remains amongst the top 20 in the world when it comes to the total number of cases, even though it mostly only tests those with severe symptoms. More widespread checks on key workers are now being introduced.

It has higher death rates in relation to its population size than anywhere else in Scandinavia.

Unlike in some countries, Sweden's statistics do include elderly care home residents, who account for around 50% of all deaths. Dr Tegnell admits that is a major concern.

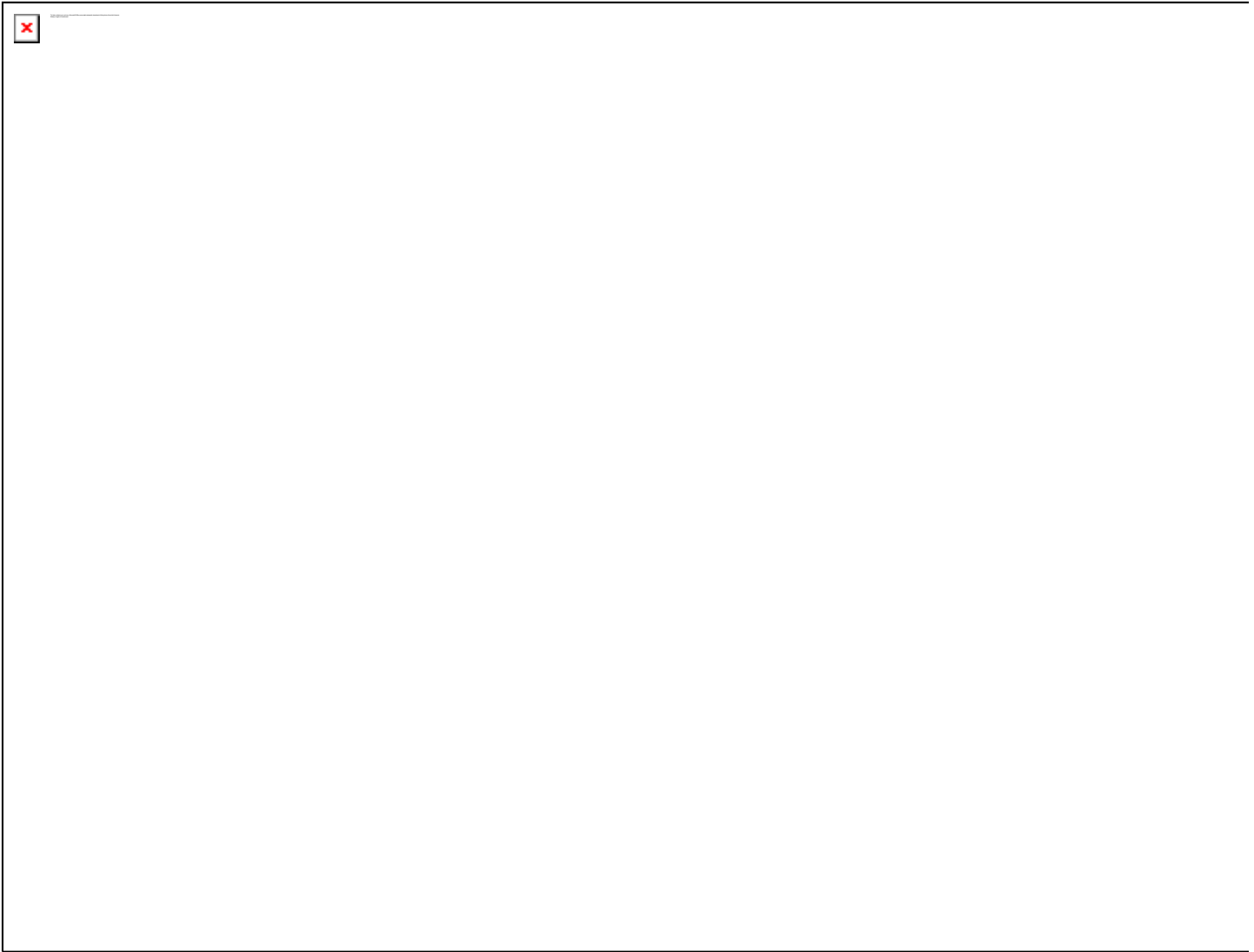


Image caption There has been considerable debate about the extent of infection in Stockholm

Foreign residents, particularly those from Somalia who are more likely to live in multi-generational households, are also overrepresented in the figures.

"There are too many people dying," says Claudia Hanson, an epidemiologist based at Karolinska Institutet, Sweden's largest medical research facility. She is critical of the government's approach and argues more of society should have been temporarily shut down in March while officials took stock of the situation.

Dr Hanson is among 22 scientists who wrote a damning piece in Sweden's leading daily last week, suggesting "officials without talent" had been put in charge of decision-making.



The man leading Sweden's response

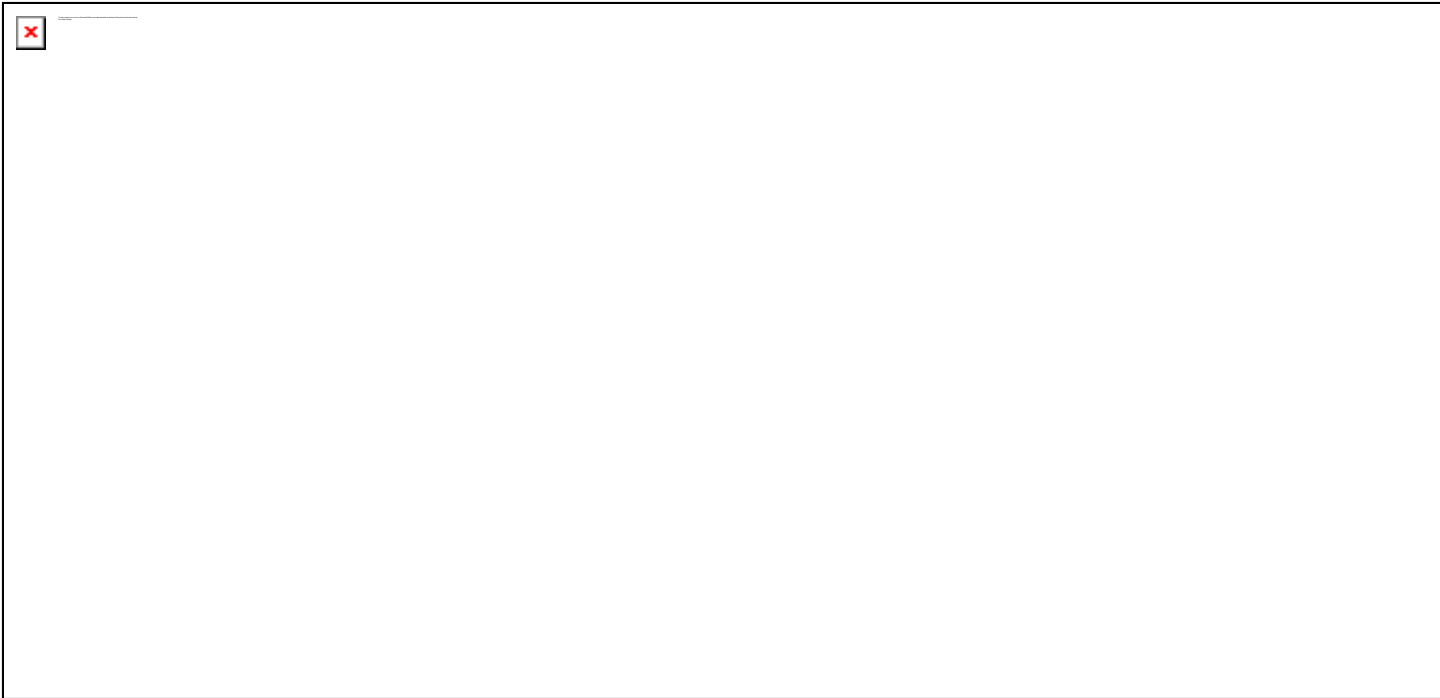


Image copyright EPA

But chief state epidemiologist Anders Tegnell is broadly popular in Sweden. An experienced scientist with more than 30 years in medicine, he is known for his relaxed demeanour and preference for pullovers.

"He's a low-key person. I think people see him as a strong leader but not a very loud person, careful in what he's saying," reflects Emma Frans, a Swedish epidemiologist and science writer. "I think that's very comforting for many."

She argues that many national and international media have been "searching for conflict" within the scientific community, whereas she believes there is a consensus that Anders Tegnell's approach is "quite positive", or at least "not worse than other strategies".



Will Swedes develop immunity?

History will judge which countries got it right. But the latest scientific discussion is focused on the number of Swedes who may have contracted the virus without showing any symptoms.

This is important because many scientists here believe Swedes may end up with much higher immunity levels compared with those living under stricter regulations.

A public health agency report this week suggested around a third of people in Stockholm will have been infected by the start of May.

That was later revised down to 26% after the agency admitted a calculation error. But several high-profile scientists have offered even greater numbers.

Prof Johan Giesecke, ex-chief scientist of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), believes at least half of all Stockholmers will have caught the virus by the end of the month.

It could even be up to half the population of Sweden, suggests Stockholm University mathematician Tom Britton.



BBC

People thinking they are OK, spreading to people who also think they are OK, are behind the vast majority of infection transmissions

Prof Johan Giesecke

Former chief scientist ECDC

And until a vaccine is developed, epidemiologist Emma Frans says immunity will "probably be important" for Sweden.

"When it comes to studies and other types of coronaviruses, they have shown that people get immune. Maybe not long-term immunity, but even if we only get this kind of short-term immunity, it may be enough to stop this pandemic," says Dr Frans.



Why not enough is yet known

The Swedish Public Health Agency believes it is still "too early to say" how much of an impact asymptomatic infection rates will have on protecting the general population.



Reuters

Of course many more Stockholmers will be protected than in countries where not so many have been exposed. But I'm not sure that will affect how we live in the short term

Anders Wallensten

Swedish deputy state epidemiologist

"We don't know that much about immunity yet," says Dr Tegnell's deputy, Anders Wallensten. "We will know more as more people are tested for antibodies, but also the more time goes on, and if more accounts of re-infection etcetera are reported."

This uncertainty means there is no guarantee Swedes in areas with high infection rates will see social distancing recommendations lifted any time soon, he says.



Is this Swedish 'exceptionalism'?

What happens next in Sweden may largely depend on people carrying on with social distancing.

Some Swedes have responded with an "outburst of nationalism" and a "sense of pride, for Sweden deviating from the European norm", says Prof Nicolas Aylott, a political scientist at Stockholm's Södertorn University.



Image copyright GETTY IMAGES Image caption Most Swedes are observing social distancing but the sunny weather has brought people out in numbers

"It sort of chimes with a rather deep seated sense of Sweden's specialness."

That may encourage some Swedes to follow the recommendations but the country is by no means united.

On social media there has been vocal dissent from some foreign residents championing tougher measures.

Meanwhile, there are signs that others living in Sweden believe the worst of the crisis is over.

Mobile phone data suggests Stockholm's residents are spending more time in the city centre than a fortnight ago, and last weekend police raised concerns about overcrowding in nightlife hotspots.

Prime Minister Stefan Lofven has warned it is "not the time to relax" and start spending more time with friends and family.

But with spring weather arriving after Sweden's notoriously long, dark winter, that may be easier said than done.

Best of ALL,
Dr. Ed

Jungle Terrace Civic Association, Inc.
West Neighborhoods United, Inc.

Young, Bernie C

From: Henderson, Sam <shenderson@mygulfport.us>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 4:42 PM
To: Welch, Kenneth; Justice, Charlie; Peters, Kathleen; Eggers, Dave; Gerard, Pat; Long, Janet C; Seel, Karen
Cc: Burton, Barry
Subject: County parks

CAUTION:

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Hello County Commissioners,

Appreciate your work over the last several weeks trying to make wise decisions and disperse consistent information. We in Gulfport appreciate it.

With fewer places to get outside, I have been spending more time at our county parks. Judging by the accumulation of garbage near receptacles and some not so near, others have been doing the same. Specifically Philipi, Ft. DeSoto, Veterans - areas where people still have full or partial access. Lot of litter accumulating in these areas.

I'm nit sure what the usual pick up schedule is for refuse, but if we have folks in county employ looking for hours, increasing the pickups might be a good way to keep people working and keep the park ship shape while there is less activity.

Just my thoughts. Thanks for your hard work, and hope to catch up with you all in the near future.

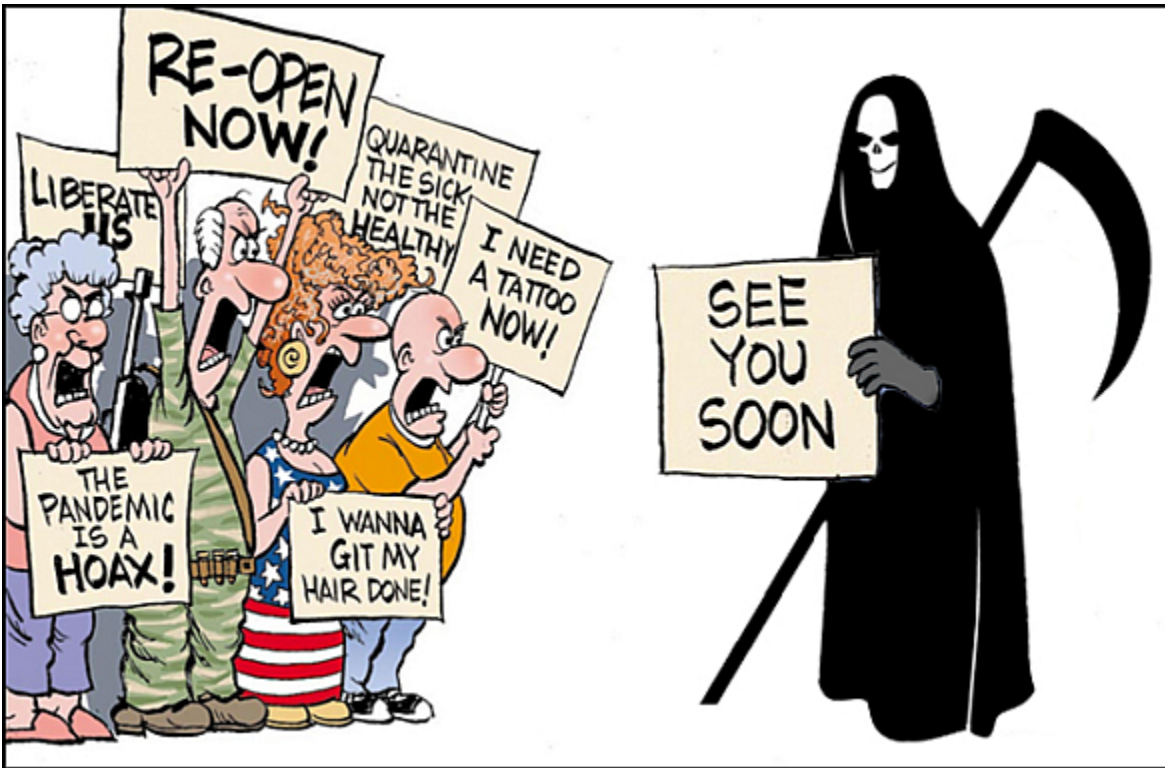
Sam Henderson
Mayor, City of Gulfport FL
727-744-6186

Young, Bernie C

From: Lou Claudio <lou.sea@verizon.net>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 9:37 AM
To: Welch, Kenneth; Seel, Karen; Long, Janet C; Justice, Charlie; Gerard, Pat; Eggers, Dave; Peters, Kathleen
Cc: Burton, Barry
Subject: 4/27 - Next discussion to reopen

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Greetings, esteemed Commissioners...I've always had a high regard for the Pinellas BCC most of my 37 years here...please don't add premature reopening to the short list of mistakes I've seen made over those years. *It's only been 5 weeks since Resolution #20-17!!* What's going to happen if / when we get hit by a major hurricane and power's out for 5 weeks? We've grown too spoiled and soft as a people...we need to be inured and steeled. The inconvenience in their lives from the lockdown may be real enough to people, but unless touched by the virus, the threat to their lives isn't. It's real enough to me having 5 relatives in NYC tested positive for COVID...one who died on Saturday. Please don't undo all the sacrifices made thus far. Stay safe, stay well...Lou / Safety Harbor



Young, Bernie C

From: goodshows@bellsouth.net
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 8:48 AM
To: Gerard, Pat
Subject: THE ROLE OF BOATING AS WE REOPEN
Attachments: MARINE INDUSTRY ROLE.pdf

CAUTION:

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Commissioner Gerard,

Attached is a statement from our association highlighting our view of the role the marine industry plays as we move through the current pandemic and rebuild our economy.

Please take a minute to review and feel free to contact us with any input. My cell is 954-592-6554.



P.O. Box 50025, Lighthouse Point, FL 33074

954-570-7785 Fax: 954-570-7786

John C. Good

swfmia.com

goboatingflorida.com

The Fort Myers Boat Show, November 12 – 15, 2020

The Bonita Springs Boat Show, March 4 – 7, 2021

The Charlotte County Boat Show, January 14-17, 2021

Young, Bernie C

From: Gary Orlando <garyorlando@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 8:35 PM
To: Gerard, Pat
Subject: Virus

CAUTION:

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In order to justify closing beaches etc presumably
There must be a clear and imminent danger.

1. Provide the evidence of it
2. Provide the evidence that so-called social distancing is necessary
3. Item 2 depends on satisfying Item 1
if you cannot provide evidence for item 1 then item 2 is not necessary either

Evidence required for item 1:

- . Show that so-called virus covid-19 was properly identified. Describe it scientifically as a new and separate threat.
- . Show that covid-19 causes sickness and or death. EVIDENCE. NOT HEARSAY or proclamations
- . Show that covid-19 is contagious.
EVIDENCE. NOT HEARSAY or proclamations.

Failing the above 3 evidentiary items we must conclude that you have no basis to close any public parks or beaches to the public

Secondarily even if you do provide the evidence that does not mean you have a right to close anything.

Risk should be taken by each person willing to take any risk

They are public facilities.

we are the public

we are permitted to use them unless there's an exceptional reason such as sinkholes.

You don't have dictatorial rights to decide on our risk

Young, Bernie C

From: Rosanne Jezek <rjezek001@tampabay.rr.com>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 8:00 AM
To: Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Welch, Kenneth
Cc: Rosanne Jezek
Subject: Immediate Action required at the April 28th BCC meeting to open pools and beaches with restrictions

CAUTION:

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To: Pinellas County BCC

RE: Immediate Action required at the April 28th BCC meeting to open pools and beaches with restrictions

Allow associations to determine restrictions based on social distancing and the size of their pools. If needed the associations can limit entrance to residents only. Prior to the commissioners closing the pools, our association reduced the number of residents at the pools by spacing the chairs 6 feet apart which eliminated chairs thereby limiting the number of residents congregating at the pools. Residents may have moved the chairs, but the number of residents was limited by the number of chairs. If an association is fearful of opening the pools they have the power to keep them closed. The commissioners should never have usurped the associations authority to establish their own social distancing protocol as each community and pool sizes differ. The Sheriff should not be tasked with monitoring social distancing behaviors on private property. The Sheriff should be monitoring speeders as it is more dangerous to drive on the road than swim in a pool or sit on a pool deck. This is not rocket science just common sense which the commissioners should have used before taking away association/resident rights!

The BCC also needs to open the beaches at some level, as the Sheriff cannot stop all of the people who are crawling over the no entry signs, yellow tape, rope or plastic fencing. The BCC reacted to fear instead of using common sense when closing the beaches and pools.

Making a motion to open the pools and beaches with restrictions should take a minuscule amount of the commissioners' time and every commissioner should vote yes!

*Rosanne Jezek
President, The Village Board of Directors
127 First St. E. #127
Tierra Verde, FL 33715
614-581-5457*

Young, Bernie C

From: Dennis Rose <dennisandvivian@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 9:58 AM
To: Gerard, Pat
Subject: Request and offer from one of your Pinellas County residents

CAUTION:

This message has originated from **Outside of the Organization**. Do Not Click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Pat,

When you and your fellow commissioners sit down tomorrow to discuss how we get Pinellas County back to work and back to life, I ask you to consider the following:

- At 60, I'm the "young guy" on our street. Most of my neighbors are older. Some of them are coping with this massive change in our lifestyles, but others are not. I have spoken (at a distance) with **several of my elderly neighbors who are losing hope**.
- I believe that most of us do not expect you and the commissioners to "flip the switch" and turn things back to normal in 24 hours. Most people are supportive of a phased approach to normalcy - but we need to hear what the plan is. Even if you were not able to name specific dates, **we need to hear what the plan is** - the benchmarks or events (e.g. two weeks of decline in new cases, etc.) that would trigger the re-opening of beaches, outdoor dining, indoor dining, stores, etc.
- **I urge you to start with re-opening the Pinellas Country beaches with social distancing restrictions.** People need fresh air...they need to see nature - and other people, even at a distance.

Lastly, **I offer you my help** in getting local businesses re-opened. I am currently the Chief Revenue Officer of a small international technology services company. I just happen to live in St. Pete Beach and I am grateful for that. I love our local businesses and they are clearly suffering. If my expertise can help any of them get back on their feet, then I am happy to help in whatever way I can.

You have a difficult task, but this is when people are looking for leadership from you and your colleagues. Please show us the path forward.

Dennis Rose
6361 4th Palm Point
St. Pete Beach, Florida. 33706

Mobile: 617-910-8687

Young, Bernie C

From: michael serritella <chello1119@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 3:58 PM
To: Burton, Barry; Kseel@pinellscounty.org; Peters, Kathleen; Welch, Kenneth; Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Cjustice@pinellscounty.org; Eggers, Dave; Kseel@pinellscounty.org
Subject: Beaches re-opening

CAUTION:

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Dear Barry Burton and commissioners,

I read Mr. Burton's proposal for re-opening the beaches for exercise only, and I wanted to give my opinion on that please. I love our parks and our beaches, I have been a Florida resident since 1971 when I moved down from Chicago. I go to county parks probably a few times a week, I go to exercise. I walk, and sometimes my wife and I play catch (we do not have a yard in our condo). I wanted to give input that there are a lot of places to exercise that are already open. All of the parks are open, and best of all, the Dunedin causeway is open. That is my wife's favorite place. She loves watching the pelicans and dolphins so much! We can exercise while looking at the ocean, you get the salty air, you can even touch the sand - you forget that it is exercise and it is so peaceful. We walked over 4 miles on the causeway the other day (you have to park farther away now because the parking lots are closed). We wanted to try something new last week and we went south on the Pinellas trail - I preferred that because it offered trees and shade and you got to see different animals than the causeway.

Anyway, my point is that we already have beautiful natural places open to exercise, and I am so appreciative of them being open, but why more? If people really have interest in exercising, they have the opportunity to do that. I think people are stir crazy and perhaps not thinking too logically here about the severity of this virus, and they want an excuse to go out and play and socialize. I am stir crazy too, but I have to take it seriously because I have a compromised immune system and only one working lung. I take absolutely every precaution when I go outside, but not everyone does. I see crowds at the parks already and I see the park rangers do their best to deal with that. I don't think you have enough staff to keep up with what the open beaches would welcome. It would be opening the floodgates. I do think it would be a mistake and cause crowds. I think the restrooms would be very germ-filled, even with staff cleaning often. I will not be going to the beach, I will be going to the parks still though. Unfortunately, those beach goers shop at the same Publix as me, and they touch the same freezer doors, and they don't cough into their elbows, all that. I'm trying not to be paranoid, but I have to act paranoid because it is very serious for me to not catch this. There are a lot of people like me in Pinellas, a pretty big crowd over 65 years old and with health issues. Without a vaccine, and without more testing in place, I just don't think we are there yet for beaches, even in limited capacity. Maybe we can get some small businesses opening with social distancing to get the economy moving at a safe pace, but let's try baby steps. Please do not open the beaches yet, this is a very long road we are on right now. I would take one missed summer on the beach if it meant many years more that I can spend with my family. Thank you for listening to me and I cannot imagine how hard it is to be in your shoes at those meetings. Just the mere fact that this meeting has to be done with video conferencing, really says it all. I trust that you will make the right decision.

Thank you again,
Mike Serritella

Young, Bernie C

From: Claudia Cruciger <ccru73@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 5:18 PM
To: Gerard, Pat
Subject: Fwd: Howard Park Tarpon Springs FL

CAUTION:

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: Claudia Cruciger <ccru73@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, Apr 27, 2020, 4:52 PM

Subject: Howard Park Tarpon Springs FL

To: <Bburton@pinellascounty.org>, <Kseel@pinellascounty.org>, <kpeters@pinellascounty.org>, <KWelch@pinellascounty.org>, <Pcozzie@pinellascounty.org>, <Janetclong@pinellascounty.org>, <Pgerard@pinellascoutny.org>, <Cjustice@pinellascounty.org>, <Degggers@pinellascounty.org>, <Kseel@pinellscounty.org>

We have season passes to Howard Park. As local residents, we frequent the park several times a week. We would like to send out some praise for the Park Rangers. Prior to the Covid crisis, the parks area and the beach have always been well maintained. The garbage gets cleared and the restrooms have always been cleaned and stocked with paper. As the COVID crisis unfolded and through today, the Park Rangers, are working so hard to keep the park safe and clean. These County employees, especially Ranger Nina have been stellar. They are friendly, responsive and always working hard. They are indeed also front line heroes! Even though they are potentially in personal harms way, working with people who are not complying with rules and cleaning to prevent the spread of the virus, we see Nina regularly sanitizing the benches and tables to provide us all with a safe place to visit during these stressful times. Even though we know that many people who visit the park are uncooperative, try to stretch or break the rules, and even out right rude, Nina and her colleagues maintain a high level of service, friendliness, and professionalism. We cannot express enough how impressed we are with these Park Rangers and we sincerely hope that there is some consideration for all that they do and would recommend front line pay increases or some sort of special recognition for them. We know their jobs are not easy, but they make our parks a pleasure to visit.

In addition, we have an idea to share for your consideration. Perhaps as society begins to re-open, a first step could be allowing season pass holders to access the beach parking, but only with parking in every other space. In addition, patrons for the time being would have to stay inside their vehicles. This would allow for residents who are annual pass holders to enjoy the view or the sunset, but not to access restricted areas such as restrooms, or the beach itself.

We thank you for your consideration.

Best regards, and keep up the good work!

Brian and Claudia Cruciger

Young, Bernie C

From: Arthur Czyszczon <pageterrace@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 11:38 AM
To: Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Welch, Kenneth; Burton, Barry
Subject: Please Help

CAUTION:

This message has originated from **Outside of the Organization**. **Do Not Click** on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Pinellas County Commission and Staff,

I am writing to you as a local resident in 33706 zip code whose family owns and operates a small hotel in the same district. We are drowning and need your help. Our beaches are closed yet others are open. We have no business coming in for the foreseeable future. We understand the health concern and understand that is a top priority. We have applied for the PPP loan and are still waiting. Our family depends on our business . All of our members except myself (even though I am not collecting a paycheck from our business) has filed for unemployment and we have not heard anything. I am also a part time school teacher.

Please if there is anything you can do to help our case, we would be so grateful. I realize there are so many cases and appreciate your help. God will see us all through this and may he continue to bless your work!

All the best,

Janet Czyszczon

Young, Bernie C

From: W M <wpm7777@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 2:31 PM
To: Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Long, Janet C; Seel, Karen; Gerard, Pat; Welch, Kenneth; Peters, Kathleen
Subject: COVID19

CAUTION:

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County Commssioners,

Thank you for the steps you have taken to protect the County residents during this Covid19 pandemic. I hope that you continue to follow the same protocols that you have up to this point. The beaches, should NOT be opened anytime soon, as long as the chances of this Covid19 exist as much as they do now! Money(greed) and boredom should NOT supercede the safety of the citizens of this County. I realize this has been a very difficult time for almost everyone in the County, State and Country. But allowing folks, that may unknowingly be carrying the virus, to go out and mingle (and yes they will mingle) with groups of people and pass this illness on to others is WRONG! It will be next to impossible to enforce any restrictions you may place on the easing of the 'safer at home' order now in practice.

Pinellas is a county with a high number of elderly folks, those most vulnerable to this illness. And no matter how careful they are, if others are not as careful they could be exposed to Covid19, perhaps fatally....unnecessarily! Those that argue they need to get out, they can walk/bike in their neighborhoods, most parks are open and being used by many now, we don't need to congregate on the beaches, which recent past experiences have shown that's what will happen!

Please continue to keep the citizens of Pinellas safe and DO NOT open the beaches up!

Thank you,
Wendy Meehan
Seminole, Fl

Young, Bernie C

From: Paul Ray <pauleray@outlook.com>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 12:49 PM
To: Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Welch, Kenneth
Subject: Reopening Pinellas County

CAUTION:

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Morning Commissioners, I pray this email reaches you in good health and spirits.

We have endured a great deal in the last month or, mostly people have stayed at home and ventured out when deemed essential, and for this I, and most other people are grateful. We are grateful for the first responders, the medical professionals, restaurants, and equally important the cashiers who have braved this pandemic in order to serve the public. We owe them all a debt of gratitude.

I wanted to address your upcoming meeting and discussion regarding reopening beaches and others. I think the analogy is best "swimming back to the start after swimming half way across the English channel because you did not think you would make it". I think we are close to a real flattening of the new cases of the virus but we are most assuredly not there yet.

I am opposed to opening the beaches on May 1st for various reasons,

- 1) I have seen the video's of other beaches where people are not adhering to the CDC guidelines
- 2) I do not see how the guidelines can be enforced and the County Sheriffs comment made me feel even less comfortable
- 3) we have made progress and this loosening early could end up pushing the curve in an upwardly direction.

I believe we are close to being able to relax the restrictions but doing so now I believe and the experts seems to indicate that the numbers could increase dramatically. Although we could relax the restrictions the real question is "Should" we, and I believe from the experts that answer is a no.

I thank you all for all you have done and cannot wait to see the other side of this.

Respectfully

Paul E Ray
Gulfport FL City Council Member

Young, Bernie C

From: michael serritella <chello1119@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 3:58 PM
To: Burton, Barry; Kseel@pinellscounty.org; Peters, Kathleen; Welch, Kenneth; Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Cjustice@pinellscounty.org; Eggers, Dave; Kseel@pinellscounty.org
Subject: Beaches re-opening

CAUTION:

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Dear Barry Burton and commissioners,

I read Mr. Burton's proposal for re-opening the beaches for exercise only, and I wanted to give my opinion on that please. I love our parks and our beaches, I have been a Florida resident since 1971 when I moved down from Chicago. I go to county parks probably a few times a week, I go to exercise. I walk, and sometimes my wife and I play catch (we do not have a yard in our condo). I wanted to give input that there are a lot of places to exercise that are already open. All of the parks are open, and best of all, the Dunedin causeway is open. That is my wife's favorite place. She loves watching the pelicans and dolphins so much! We can exercise while looking at the ocean, you get the salty air, you can even touch the sand - you forget that it is exercise and it is so peaceful. We walked over 4 miles on the causeway the other day (you have to park farther away now because the parking lots are closed). We wanted to try something new last week and we went south on the Pinellas trail - I preferred that because it offered trees and shade and you got to see different animals than the causeway.

Anyway, my point is that we already have beautiful natural places open to exercise, and I am so appreciative of them being open, but why more? If people really have interest in exercising, they have the opportunity to do that. I think people are stir crazy and perhaps not thinking too logically here about the severity of this virus, and they want an excuse to go out and play and socialize. I am stir crazy too, but I have to take it seriously because I have a compromised immune system and only one working lung. I take absolutely every precaution when I go outside, but not everyone does. I see crowds at the parks already and I see the park rangers do their best to deal with that. I don't think you have enough staff to keep up with what the open beaches would welcome. It would be opening the floodgates. I do think it would be a mistake and cause crowds. I think the restrooms would be very germ-filled, even with staff cleaning often. I will not be going to the beach, I will be going to the parks still though. Unfortunately, those beach goers shop at the same Publix as me, and they touch the same freezer doors, and they don't cough into their elbows, all that. I'm trying not to be paranoid, but I have to act paranoid because it is very serious for me to not catch this. There are a lot of people like me in Pinellas, a pretty big crowd over 65 years old and with health issues. Without a vaccine, and without more testing in place, I just don't think we are there yet for beaches, even in limited capacity. Maybe we can get some small businesses opening with social distancing to get the economy moving at a safe pace, but let's try baby steps. Please do not open the beaches yet, this is a very long road we are on right now. I would take one missed summer on the beach if it meant many years more that I can spend with my family. Thank you for listening to me and I cannot imagine how hard it is to be in your shoes at those meetings. Just the mere fact that this meeting has to be done with video conferencing, really says it all. I trust that you will make the right decision.

Thank you again,
Mike Serritella