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July 9, 2020

Dear Merchants and Business Owners of Hinesville,

The impacts and detriments of COVID-19 have been far reaching and close to home all at once. It has been a difficult road to navigate and we have all done what we felt was best for ourselves, our families and our businesses in these trying times.

As you may be aware, the City Council voted today to pass an emergency order to make face coverings/masks mandatory inside all commercial buildings within the City of Hinesville. We do not come to this decision lightly and we know that it will be met with mixed feelings on both sides of the issue. Nevertheless, it is our duty to protect the health and safety of the people of this city and I feel this is the best option for us at this time. With case counts on the rise across the country, we want to keep our numbers relatively low in Liberty County.

The City asks Hinesville businesses to work with us in solidarity by enforcing masks within your establishments for the duration of this Order. This may seem like a difficult task, but I ask it all the same.

Enclosed with this letter is a copy of the Hinesville "Mask Up" flyer. This and other items have also been posted with the Emergency Orders on our website (www.cityofhinesville.org/517/COVID-19) and can be used to post at your business – along with generic marketing materials. If you have any questions regarding these materials, please contact Whitney Morris-Reed at wmorrisreed@cityofhinesville.org.

Protecting the health and safety of our citizens not only includes their individual person but protecting and helping businesses as well. Small businesses within the City of Hinesville may be eligible for grant funding to assist with maintaining staff and offsetting costs brought on by this Order and any previous COVID-19 orders. The assistance application will be available July 13 on the Community Development Department page at www.cityofhinesville.org. These funds are in limited supply, so I would encourage you to apply as soon as possible.

If you have any questions about this Order, please do not hesitate to call us at 912.876.3564 and ask to speak with Yokesha Greene in the Business License Office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Allen Brown".

Allen Brown
Mayor, City of Hinesville