



**Orange County Economic Recovery Task Force**  
**Tuesday, April 28, 2020**  
**Draft Minutes**

**Welcome and Introductions:** Mayor Demings began the meeting with a welcome and provided the following comments. As an outgrowth of the discussion, the Business Compliance and Consumer Confidence is more appropriate. To reopen businesses, we have to build consumer confidence from the employees to the customers as we reengage with our community. The White House has proposed guidelines, and the President will look to the State's governors, and the governor will work with the counties to make sure they can do what they need to do for their unique circumstances. The Governor's Stay at Home order is set to expire on April 30th, and we do not know if he will continue the order. It will require detailed planning for their respective businesses and build consumer confidence and get people engaged. For consumers to want to re-engage, they want to see certain protocols in place, so they feel comfortable. I went into an office supply store, and the front door said no more than ten people in the store and all the employees were wearing masks. It said to me that they were taking COVID-19 seriously. The counter also had hand sanitizer for consumers and a note that said use hand sanitizer before touching the credit card keypad. It also provided a separator from the employee and consumer. It's those types of measures that employers will have to take to make people comfortable. The work of this Task Force is to look holistically and not get into the granular level. The CDC and appropriate federal agencies will put out guidelines for businesses to reopen, and we will have to have ample supplies to ensure they can meet the guidelines. I believe our supply chain is getting better; however, in the private sector, we see a tremendous amount of fraud. We are working to positively impact the supply chains.

One of my top priorities is to increase testing. We have increased our testing three-fold both the public and private sectors. Our residents want to see and have access to testing. Today, I had my EPG call and on that call, 32,846 of positive cases, 1171 individuals that died in Florida, and 368,651 that have been tested in Florida. In Orange County, we had 1,363 positive cases, 32 deaths, and 24,116 tests. The age range is 0-101 and median age 46. While we do see a flattening of the daily increase in cases, we still have cases. We need a balance to protect lives and livelihood.

**Roll Call:** George Aguel, Co-Chair, conducted a roll call of the Task Force Members. The following members were present.

**Members in Attendance:**

- AdventHealth, Scott Brady, MD, Senior Vice President of Ambulatory Services
- Alford Inn, Jesse Martinez, General Manager
- Black Business Investment Fund (BBIF), Inez Long, President and CEO
- Church Street Entertainment, Doug Taylor, Managing Partner
- City of Orlando & Orlando Venues, Allen Johnson, Chief Venues Officer
- Darden Restaurants, Dave George, EVP, and Chief Operating Officer
- Don Julio's Mexican Kitchen, Florencio "Larry" Rodriguez, Owner

- Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts, Kathy Ramsberger, President & CEO
- Florida Department of Health in Orange County, Raul Pino, MD, Health Officer
- Highwoods Properties, Steve Garrity, Vice President
- J Henry's Barber Shop, John Henry, Owner
- John Michael Exquisite Weddings & Catering, Michael Thomas, Owner
- Kissimmee/Osceola County Chamber of Commerce, John Newstreet, President/CEO
- Lake County Agency for Economic Prosperity, Brandon Matulka, Executive Director
- M.C. Spa & Nail Bar, Mary Chau, Founder and CEO
- Mosaic Hair Studio, Mike Van del Abbeel, Salon Owner
- National Entrepreneur Center, Jerry Ross, Executive Director
- Nelson, Mullins/Broad, and Cassel, Wayne Rich, Of Council
- Orange County Public Schools, Barbara Jenkins, Ed.D., Superintendent
- Orlando City Soccer Club, Alex Leitao, CEO
- Orlando Health, George Ralls, MD, System Chief Quality Officer
- Orlando International Airport, Phil Brown, CEO
- Orlando Magic, Alex Martins, CEO
- Orlando Shakespeare Theater, Douglas Love-Ramos, President
- Prospera, Augusto Sanabria, President and CEO
- Rejoice in the Lord Ministries & President, African American Council of Christian Clergy, Pastor Roderick Zak, CEO
- Rosen Shingle Creek, Dan Giordano, General Manager
- SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment, Brad Gilmour, Vice President of Operations
- Seminole County Government, Tricia Johnson, Deputy County Manager/Chief Administrator for Community Relations and Economic Development
- The Mall at Millennia, Steve Jamieson, General Manager
- The Trentham Santiago Group, Conrad Santiago, CFP®, MSFS, Private Wealth Advisor
- The Vineyard Wine Bar & Healthy Bistro, Deborah Linden, Owner
- Truist, Sandy Hostetter, Central Florida Regional President
- UCF Rosen College of Hospitality Management, Youcheng Wang, Ph.D., Dean
- Unicorp National Development, Chuck Whittall, President
- Universal Orlando, Rich Costales, Executive Vice President of Resort Operations
- VMD Ventures, LLC, Harold Mills, CEO
- Walmart, Inc., Monesia Brown, Director of Public Affairs and Government Relations
- Walt Disney World Resort, Thomas Mazloum, Senior Vice President, Resort & Transportation Operations
- WaWa, Inc., Todd Souders, Senior Director of Florida Operations and New Market Development
- YMCA of Central Florida, Dan Wilcox, President & CEO

**Approval of Minutes:** Tim Giuliani, Co-Chair, reviewed the minutes with the Task Force and requested a motion to approve the minutes. Jesse Martinez made a motion to approve the minutes, and Doug Taylor seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

**Public Comments:** County staff read the public comments listed below in the record.

- Judith Lap – Do not open, do not listen to the Republican idiots who refuse to believe in science and medicine and do not allow them to put my mother’s lives in jeopardy. Greed and ignorance do not have the right to put my life and loved ones and the public safety in jeopardy. Trump and DeSantis are buddies, and neither is smart enough to make any decisions regarding public welfare. Listen to the CDC and WHO and every scientist and medical professionals who are qualified to make an opinion.
- Ferna Berstein – I own and operate Flair Salon Suite Concept, where beauty professionals work one-on-one with clients in fully enclosed private suites. When we closed, it impacted the income of 20 professionals. I cannot express strongly enough how financially devastating this has been to so many. As evidenced by the low and declining occurrence of COVID-19 infection, it is my opinion the citizens of Orange County have done an amazing job of social distancing. It is now time to allow “non-essential” businesses to reopen and permit these hard-working citizens to once again earn a living. In this new normal, it is imperative all community members be conscientious in disinfecting and wearing PPE. As an owner, we will do our part to follow protocols provided by authorities. We look forward to your support to reopen our businesses on May 1st.
- Jimmy Parks – What restrictions or requirements are being considered for a soft start for Mass gathering type’s events or businesses like theme parks. Restrictions on several attendees, entrance on scanning or portals, reduction of maximum occupancy numbers based on the square footage of space required.
- Jonathan Gedge –If I recall Correctly Orange & Osceola County shut down on March 27th but local businesses and churches responded much earlier. (The Church of Jesus Christ shut down all meetings on March 12th world wide) with Disney, Universal Studios, & SeaWorld furloughing staff a week before Mayor Demings county shut down order. Back in March, the Novel Corona Virus Strain 19 (CV-19) seemed to be a largely unknown entity at that time. Still, we had determined that there was a two week incubation period before symptoms became apparent. So as of April 30th, Orange County will have been shut down for 35 days or five full weeks. Well beyond the incubation period expected for CV-19. (Currently, we know that the incubation period is between 2 - 14 days. Based on this information, if shutting down was going to work, it did. If shutting down didn’t work, staying shut down longer won’t help. <https://restartnow.io/us/florida> also has a positive outlook showing that Orange County has been impacted by CV-19 in a negligible way. However, the economic damage looks much worse. As of this writing, it looks like we're hovering around 200 hospitalizations, with about 25 deaths in a county with a population of 1.1 million 0.0181% of the COVID-19 has been hospitalized? Any rate based on this data, I'm recommending that Orange County (& Surrounding counties) begin phased re- openings beginning May 1st at the latest. (Honestly per the restart now website numbers we should reopen today). Given the publicly available information coming from US Medical professionals (primarily the CDC), citizens and businesses in Central Florida will be able to make reasonable accommodations during phased reopening as we've seen conducted at grocery stores. Another argument to consider is that with a two-week incubation rate, if we were going to be able to isolate and stop CV-19 from spreading throughout Central Florida, shutting down for five weeks would have been more than ample time. Further general closures are counterproductive and not helpful in controlling CV-19. Anecdotaly, now that most of us in Central Florida (at least in my circle of associates) know what the symptoms

for CV-19 are, we realize that this strain already hit Central Florida in January and February. Yes, that means that the shutdown in March may have been completely unnecessary.

- Brenda Davis - The 6ft distancing rule Should be relative to the situation; for example, attractions and theater seating, even airlines, should be based on party size, the same as seating restaurant tables. There's no point in presetting theater and airline seats as single seats 6ft apart when a couple or family came in the same car from the same home and want to sit together. Reopening should begin with traffic limited to Florida residents only, which would make contact tracing easier and containment of new outbreaks. Phased-in attendance should be something like 1st- Florida residence only, 2nd-those who had reservations canceled and ready to visit Excluding from hot spots in NY, LA, etc., phased in as appropriate. Open hotels-retail-dining first without parks to test new processes on small scale where people are contained- before opening g parks. Not every park has to open at the satellite, maybe MI( first, then ST , AI( , EP, then scale up. Maybe shorter hours 9-9, allows for more cleaning restocking sanitation supplies. Replace hard queue railings with a softer surface (rope, cables) that people are less likely to hold/grip while waiting, also reduces leaning, sitting, climbing, etc. Since it has been proven that the virus dies on non-porous surfaces under a 1 minute with alcohol, attractions simply need an automated spray procedure. At the same time, ride vehicles move between disembarkation and embarkation. Having ride attendants "wipe" down each vehicle will not be consistent and allows for missing a spot, and time-consuming. Costume image can be maintained by making face masks out of corresponding costume fabric for both operational and characters. Maybe start with fur/sculpted characters only, face characters later with/without masks TBD.

**Federal and State Guidelines:** Tim Giuliani, Co-Chair, stated we anticipate the Governor's release of information regarding his guidelines tomorrow. The county staff will forward that information once received. We will be able to flush that out with the Working Groups for the work they're doing.

**Health Update:** George Aguel, Co-Chair, introduced Dr. Pino for the Health Update. Dr. Pino, Director, Florida Department of Health in Orange County, talked about the proposed State or Regional Gating Criteria to include symptoms, cases, and hospitals. He reviewed the Influenza-Like Illness Visits statistics. We saw a significant decline over the last 14 days in Orange County. Dr. Pino reviewed Orange County's COVID-19 like syndromic cases, and the cases reported to the Florida Department of Health. He reported the cases are trending downward. D. Pino talked about the percentage of positive tests is decreasing, and the cases by week are decreasing. In Orange County, Less than 2% of the population has been tested. We have a 5.7% positive rate in Orange County compared to a 9% positive rate statewide.

Mayor asked Dr. Pino - what does it suggest about going forward. Does the data indicate we should open immediately, or should we open slowly. We need to look at the advice for potential opening and the impact for the future. Dr. Pino – the current conditions we have today, the new cases will continue. We don't see the tripling of cases that we saw several weeks ago. We are in a sustained de-acceleration of the pandemic. It's my opinion that we should not open everything at once. How do we sustain recovery if we see several new cases? How do we have the ability to predict any future outbreak? It would hurt us if we opened too fast and had a spike. This would not help with consumer confidence. There are ways we can open with PPE, educate the public, and provide guidelines for reopening.

Q: The gating criteria is 14 days. Dr. Pino, Yes, the gating criteria is 14 days.

Q: Harold Mills – The number of positives cases is at 3% of the total people who tested with symptoms. What would you say about this model relative to the population of the county? Dr. Pino – It is true that we have a higher percentage of infection rates when we only test the symptomatic patients. We have a relatively low percentage when we open the test to the general public. The task force will have a couple of weeks to see more data to support their decision.

Q: What is the primary method for the spread of the virus person to person? Dr. Pino – the virus comes through droplets or on our hands as well as touching surfaces that are contaminated.

Q: Hot spots in Orange County? Dr. Pino - The Mayor has a map that's updated regularly and shows the cumulative positive tests. We continue to test at Assisted Living Facilities, and we have increased our ability to protect our healthcare workers and people in assisted living facilities.

Q: About 40% of Americans could foresee traveling now. The Mayor's comment about confidence is true, and 60% need assurance before they travel. Need a third party that validates the protocols. The good news that this process is looking to establish these guidelines with the Working Groups meeting today.

Q: Pastor Zak – some churches are planning to open June 1st. Dr. Pino – we need to see the guidelines from the Governor before churches open. Any gatherings of people larger than 5 are critical. We have to be extremely careful; our immunity of the Herd is very low because this is a new virus.

Q: Steve Garrity- Is there a certain number of positive cases that increase concern at hospitals? Dr. Pino - I don't have a number from the hospitals.

**Dr. Brady, AdventHealth:** we've seen a decline in hospitalized patients with COVID-19. We currently have 75 inpatients, and 40 patients are on ventilators. We are continuing to see a slow decline. We do have a threshold of 75% of beds and ventilators full; then, we would start to open more. We are aggressively testing in our community with drive-thru testing. Most people tested don't have symptoms; they are worried well. We are doing over 1,000 tests a day. We have completed 24,000 tests with a 1% positive rate. We are also aggressively testing for our business. AdventHealth is testing 100% of the physicians, staff, inpatients, observation, and surgery patients as there are still certain people in the population who are asymptomatic, positive, and be contagious. AdventHealth is getting an antibody testing in May

AdventHealth is checking the temperature of every employee and patient, using shields to protect employees and patients, and we are changing our waiting rooms as we wait to reopen for elective surgeries. Looking forward, not so much a phased-in approach for businesses, the most important thing is the safety measures when opening, which include universal masks, social distancing, hand sanitizers everywhere and remove people with a fever. Steps to reduce the infection between people. If you have an event with 500 or 1000 people, then it would be hard to separate everyone by 6 feet. We also need to keep track of positive tests by zip code basis and look for flares.

Mayor asked Dr. Brady to provide his recommendations in writing for the members to use as resource material for the Working Groups.

**Dr. Ralls, Orlando Health:** We continue to see a decline in the trend. We are down to 12 COVID positive inpatients. We have expanded our testing capacity for our hospital patients. We are ramping up to

1000 tests a day. We are also pursuing anti-body testing. Gating criteria and phased approach – this is a straight forward way to get back to business with attention given to the numbers. I believe we are at the point of meeting the Gating criteria for Phase 1. We are observing a great deal of responsibility by the community. We will have to tailor mix the guidelines for the business community to include hygiene, encourage masking, social distancing, and rely on the community's willingness to do the right thing. Our businesses have every reason to do this right.

**Introduction of Working Groups:** Tim Giuliani, Co-Chair, introduced the co-chairs of the Task Force Working Groups. The groups are meeting daily this week as they develop their priorities and recommendations.

- Guidelines for Reopening Business
- Business Readiness
- Business Compliance & Consumer Confidence
- Bringing Back Tourism

**Guidelines for Reopening Business Working Group Update:** George Aguel, Co-Chair introduced Chuck Whittall and John Henry, Co-Chairs of the Guidelines for Reopening Business Working Group for an update. Chuck Whittall – we have a great group of people represented with a focus on how we can safely reopen. We want to create guidelines for businesses with consistency. We need to create a balance for the health of our consumers and the livelihood of our businesses. We are not sure if the Governor will extend his order or let it expire. We will have input coming in this week, and we should be able to present early next week on how to open businesses safely. We are waiting on the Governor's recommendations as we prepare our priorities. The biggest issue is the personal protective equipment (PPE) for different industries. We have another Working Group meeting, and the doctors will be able to look over our guidelines to make sure we are not missing anything. Local businesses – we are talking about their ability to obtain the PPE needed and to make sure they are getting it from reputable businesses. We do understand that a lot of businesses want to get open, and we have to balance the health and livelihood of our community. We want to make sure we don't rebound. Discussion on the third week, analyze the data and the numbers to make sure we are going in the right direction. Larger venues and gatherings were a tougher discussion. We are not sure when that's going to happen. Large gatherings don't make sense right now; we are going to have to have those discussions in the coming weeks.

John Henry – spoke to co-workers and community members regarding reopening. Being prepared is very important, and to make sure my staff is compliant with the guidelines. We want to ensure we are safe, and we keep our families and customers safe. Safety is very important, and I will do everything I can to lead by example.

Chuck Whittall – employers are going to have to train their employees and provide the necessary PPE equipment to open safely. We will have our guidelines by the end of this week.

Q: Dr. Jenkins – If the Governor makes an announcement tomorrow, want people to assume it's ok to reopen. Mayor – I believe the community is confident with the direction the leadership has taken. We will call on our citizens to do the right thing. If the Governor doesn't extend the order, then I have the challenge to hold the line and see which businesses can or cannot open. We are still under a state of emergency in Florida. If the executive order expires, then we will have to make a decision and work

with our regional partners and do what's mutually right for our communities. The overwhelming majority of the community still wants to see the social distancing for a specific period.

We do have several people that believe any restriction is an overreach by government. I don't believe that's the opinion of the masses. This seems to be a small group of individuals that protest. We want to have a broad community buy-in through this body.

Q. Conrad Santiago – what is being done for parents of minor children that will not be able to return to work. What are your thoughts if they are not able to immediately return to work? Mayor – Businesses will have to have a plan and process before they can reopen. For parents that have childcare concerns, they have to take that into consideration. We need a community net for parents and a place for them to go. This is part of the conversation we are having within the county and municipalities. That's why we have youth-related organizations represented on the Task Force. It takes a coordinated effort by the community at-large to have success for people to go back to work.

Mike – It would be extremely helpful to give businesses and families a date? If the Governor kicks it down to the county, when do you plan on announcing? Mayor - I believe if the work product goes well, we could make an announcement on the date in the coming days. Our goal is not to discriminate against businesses, but make it the right fit.

Thomas Mazolum– thanked everyone for their leadership. He said this morning's productive session produced a document for the chairman that was a starting point for the Working Group's conversation. It appears unintentional that some media outlets misinterpreted that these were guidelines for reopening were for the Task Force or Walt Disney World.

Chuck Whittall– the document was to be used to start the conversation. We believe the theme parks are the experts, and they will tell us the guidelines and what they need to do to open their theme parks. It also applies to large venues like Amway, Dr. Philips Center, and other sports industries that they would get together and present what they believe collectively for their timeline.

**Open Discussion:** Comment from Mike Van Del Abbeel – Many business owners did not get the PPP loans, and many employees have not received their unemployment checks. We need to know the date that they can reopen.

Mayor – We need to make certain behavioral changes to stop the virus. The re-opening date would be a couple weeks from now.

Mayor –The theme parks are likely to bring components of their business and ramp-up to the parks themselves. They will use the CDC guidelines and others as they plan for reopening. The theme parks made the right decision and the right time and their employees and guests are their top priority. I have confidence that we will have the right fit. Our small businesses and mid-size businesses will need more guidance for reopening.

Q: Wayne Rich – Has there been any kind of liability discussion of local businesses concerning this particular outbreak of the virus A: Mayor – I have had several conversations with our local legislative delegation, and they are looking at liability reform as a backdrop for the next session.

All working documents are located at [www.ocfl.net/economicrecovery](http://www.ocfl.net/economicrecovery), and the next meeting is Friday, May 1st, at 2 pm.

Meeting adjourned