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COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

HINDS COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THE HINDS COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS RESPONDS TO THE JACKSON-METRO AREA MEDICAL COMMUNITY'S REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE DUE TO THE UNAVAILABILITY OF HOSPITAL BEDS

Hinds County, MS: As it has been doing since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Hinds County Board of Supervisors continues to closely monitor the situation and its direct impact upon the citizens of Hinds County. On today, July 15, 2020, the Hinds County Board of Supervisors held a special emergency meeting via teleconference at 2:00pm to address the serious shortage of hospital beds in the Jackson metro area.

Due to the recent rise in Mississippi's COVID-19 cases, Jackson hospitals have become inundated with individuals needing medical care that requires short and long-term hospitalizations. In recent days, medical professionals have expressed a dire need for assistance as the overload of patients in a very short time period has put tremendous stress on all Jackson area hospitals and their staff rendering them unable to receive some patients immediately.

To assist with this medical crisis, in conjunction with the Federal, State and Local Declarations, the Hinds County Board of Supervisors seeks to assist hospitals in ensuring that there is an optimal number of beds available for patients with emergent life threatening illnesses, including COVID-19. Therefore, the Hinds County Board of Supervisors has deemed it necessary and voted today to amend its ambulance ordinance through an executive order to provide support to the medical community during this critical time.

The emergency order:

- will be effective immediately for a period of 90 days, at which time the order will automatically terminate or be extended, as necessary and
- will expand the capacity of American Medical Response for emergency transport services to be more responsive to local hospitals during the COVID-19 crisis, by making referrals to additional ambulance transport companies for the safe, medical transport of patients to their homes or alternate locations, such as long-term healthcare facilities, that are outside of the Hinds County area.

This proactive move on the part of the Hinds County Board of Supervisors will provide much need relief to the Hinds County medical community enabling them to more effectively combat the pandemic and assist citizens from across the state.

For more information contact Sharon Sims at 601-906-6594 or ssims@co.hinds.ms.us.

About Hinds County

The Hinds County Board of Supervisors is extremely proud of the improvements that are occurring in our great County. Hinds County has so much to offer approximately 245,000 residents and the hundreds of thousands of visitors we greet each year. We are home to the emerging revitalizing downtown district of the State's capital city to the charming and peaceful fields of the countryside. Our county has a rich southern history with a bright, diverse future and is an outstanding place to live, work, play and raise families.

Experience Hinds County for yourself and find out why we are *Absolutely, More Than Just a Place...!* Visit us at www.hindscountymys.com and connect with us **@hindscountyms on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. ###**