

Message from the desk of Mayor Johnny L. Smith

May 1, 2020

I cannot believe that the month of May has arrived! Today's report finds us in a "Safer at Home" order by Governor Ivey. Doesn't seem to be a big change from what we have been doing these last few weeks. I am hopeful that we are past the halfway mark and headed towards the other side of this coronavirus pandemic. Calhoun County currently has 92 positive cases of COVID-19 and the numbers seem to have slowed a bit. I was happy to see the report of the woman that was just released from RMC Anniston after recovering from this virus!

The City of Jacksonville will remain operating under Response Level III of the Infectious Disease/Pandemic Policy. All City and WWG&SB departments will continue to operate at their current status. Realizing that retail shops are the main difference of this "Safer at Home" order, I encourage you still to only travel for absolutely necessary visits. As we anxiously await the new report of the Governor before the May, 15, 2020 ending date of the order, I still think following the Stay at Home order will increase our chances of going back to a new normal way of life on May 16th or even sooner. So continue to do your part. Practice social distancing, hand washing and all sanitation procedures. God is working all things for our good!

I am very aware of small businesses that were anxiously awaiting the Governor's new order to see if they could resume work. Those of you that are still closed, I know this was not what you wanted to hear from Governor Ivey. I am hopeful that you will all be back to work within the next 2 weeks, if not before. Until then, I encourage you to stay positive and put your trust in God who is able to sustain you during this valley. I also encourage you to email Governor Ivey and your other representatives with your concerns. We know the struggle is real; pass that along to your state representatives who are making these decisions. Please continue to contact the Calhoun County Resource Center by dialing 2-1-1 if you need any assistance. Jacksonville Christian Outreach Center is also willing and able to help those in need. They may be reached at 256-435-1891. Pray for our city, state, and country that not only are we allowed to return to our lives, but that we will honor and serve God in all of our days to come. I am not saying God sent this pandemic; but I am positive that He is using it to draw His people back to Him.

Census 2020 is still in progress. Online participation at <https://2020census.gov/en.html> is still open. I encourage you to complete the Census online or return the form you received in the mail. The deadline is still a few months away, but the sooner we get that done the sooner you can put that responsibility to bed. I appreciate all those that have done so already; our numbers are improving!! For those that haven't, please do so soon. It is important to Be Counted!