

#1

**COMPLETE**

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**Q1**

## Contact Information

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**Q2**

Please submit your comments via the form below (500 words or less). The clerk will document your comments as part of the formal minutes of today's meeting.

June 1, 2020

Dear Wake County Commissioners,

We are living in interesting times. There seems to be so much hatred, racism and sickness running rampant through the lands. We have been faced with one of the scariest viruses that has been seen since the Spanish Flu of 1918. Crime and unemployment are at an all-time high and many are uncertain about the future. People are looking around, hungry for answers, and although it all seems very complicated, there is an answer that is not. Education.

I have been honored to be a participant of the NC Pre-K program. Being able to have my child in a good quality program that promotes education and healthy interaction with others, has been a strong cornerstone in the foundation of life and character that I hope to instill in her. Because of the quality of education my child has received through this program, she has gained an intense thirst for knowledge that I know will propel her to excel leaps and bounds throughout life.

Having programs like this enables our children to interact with others of all different backgrounds and cultures and encourages our children to love one another no matter what our differences are, which combats racism and hatred. It introduces children to the many diverse facets of life, helping to stimulate their interest and attention to the many avenues that they can pursue to build a better world. Children aren't born knowing "what they want to be when they grow up", but through amazing teachers showing them the importance of career holders such as doctors, lawyers, teachers, mechanics, plumbers, firefighters, etc., we are able to shape their hearts and minds to be the outstanding leaders and policy makers of tomorrow.

We need quality people in medicine to create vaccines and fight illnesses. We need honest and integral police officers to combat crime and build community morale. We need compassionate and understanding souls to teach, shape and mold our children. We need bold, empathetic and warm-hearted people to squelch racism and treat mental illness. We are aware of what we need, and we all hold the power to shape the answer to the need, our children. As we impart into them the knowledge, wisdom and compassion to be the solution, we need to ensure that we are equipping them with all the tools that they need to be successful, and the earlier we can start, the better we will be.

Please consider the great service you are doing in creating a better tomorrow, by ensuring that our early childhood education programs remain top priority with funding and resources. There is a mantra that I have seen over time that simply states, "Because of them, we can". Because of the sacrifices and work that those before us put in, we are able to do more and do greater than they and the same applies to us. Because of the choices and decisions that we make now, the next generations will be able to go further and higher than we have. Our children are the future, let's do all we can to ensure that that future is bright!

Thank you for the opportunity to express my sentiments and heartfelt thoughts on this platform. I am encouraged and assured that you will make today great to pave the way for a greater tomorrow.

Sincerely,

Tiffany M. Ford

NC Pre-K Parent

#2

**COMPLETE**

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**Q1**

## Contact Information

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**Q2**

Please submit your comments via the form below (500 words or less). The clerk will document your comments as part of the formal minutes of today's meeting.

June 1, 2020

Dear Wake County Commissioners,

My name is Kim Roney and I am an NC Pre-K teacher in Wake County. I have been a Pre-K teacher for the last 24 years. This is my 11th year teaching in the NC Pre-K program. I am writing to you today to share why these last 11 years have been the most meaningful times in my career and why I am so passionate about the program. What we do matters and is making a huge difference in the educational success of the children throughout the state of North Carolina. I am very proud to have been a part of this successful program for so many years and look forward to many more.

I sometimes hear conversations about preschool starting with: Why is public-funded preschool important? They are just playing in preschool. We don't need it. It is true, we do focus on play in our classrooms because research supports that children learn best through their play. What we do in our classrooms is not "just play". If you have ever visited an NC Pre-K classroom you will understand what I mean. The children's play is intentionally planned by the teacher and is meaningful to the children, allowing them to become deeply engaged in their learning. We embed important academic skills into everything we do. We count spoons when helping to set the table for lunch and learn our letters when doing our Star of the Week cheer at Morning Circle. We plan and individualize our lesson plans to meet each child where they are and expand their learning. We engage the children in learning by asking them what they want to know and plan experiences where they can help discover the answers. We take advantage of conversations and asking open-ended questions during our play experiences. Everything we do is intentional, even if it looks like play. This is what a high-quality preschool classroom looks like, what NC Pre-K is and what every child in this state deserves access to.

One of the main goals of the NC Pre-K program is to make sure that the 4 and 5-year-old children in this state that are at-risk are prepared for Kindergarten. When you think about what Kindergarten Readiness is you may think about the ABC's and other skills. As NC Pre-K teachers we know that there are so many other skills children need to be successful in Kindergarten. Children's life experiences are changing each year as our society changes with things like technology and the state of the world that we live in. Kindergarten expectations have also continued to change. What children are expected to do in Kindergarten may be something that they have no experience in doing. How can we expect them to be successful if we are asking them to do things they have no idea how to do? Many of our students come to our classroom never having been away from their parents before. Many have no idea how to zip their own coat, follow a routine, make a new friend, or ask someone for a toy they want. Without someone teaching them how to do these things how are they going to understand how to function in a Kindergarten classroom?

Children thrive in our classroom and continue to do so when they enter Kindergarten. Not only do we hear this from the parents of our students, but also by Kindergarten teachers in the public school system. They see a noticeable difference in how prepared the students are and how well they are able to easily transition into Kindergarten. We often have parents contact us and let us know how well their children are doing and how appreciative they are of what we taught them. NC Pre-K also focuses on helping the families in our programs, not only in supporting their children's learning, but with access to resources in our communities. Families are an important part of our learning process and are encouraged to become involved in their education. This will continue in public schools, where it has been shown that parent involvement impacts a child's success in school.

In our NC Pre-K classrooms, we focus on the development of the whole child and also understand the importance of their social and emotional development. We know through the work of Dr. Becky Bailey how our relationships with others impact our learning experiences. A child who does not feel safe and loved will have a very difficult time reaching their highest potential. In our classrooms we work on creating a safe classroom community. The harsh reality is that for many of our students our classrooms may be the only place they feel this. Social skills need to be taught and practiced with peers. It is the same for how to handle strong emotions. It needs to be learned and practiced. Young children need the social setting of a classroom to practice their social and emotional skills. Our children and their families can do this in our classrooms. Children will have a difficult time being successful in a Kindergarten classroom

without good social and emotional skills. When children are being suspended from Kindergarten, we must begin to look at why and how to help solve the problem. Teaching these skills in our classrooms are making a difference in the lives of our students and our families. Children are experiencing a level of trauma in their lives that we have never seen during this pandemic. ALL CHILDREN may be experiencing this, not only ones that we traditionally may have thought of as at-risk. This makes what we do in our classrooms to support them and their families even more important.

The end of the school year is a time of reflection for most teachers. The end of this year is vastly different for me. I mourn the loss of the last few months with my students, but I am so grateful to have been a part of their lives for the time we had together. We truly are a classroom family and it has been tough, but we have made social distancing work. I know they have been provided a strong foundation to be successful in Kindergarten and are ready to take the next step. It is an amazing thing to see the transformation each child makes throughout the year. How much they grow and learn. I often wonder throughout the year what would happen to some of my students without this program. The truth is that some of them would have a really difficult time. Some might not even be successful simply because they lack the skills and experience to do so. As a teacher that thought is devastating. But they can, every child can with the love and support of the adults around them. We are responsible for providing this to them. This is what the NC Pre-K Program does. This is why I love this program, why what we do as teachers matters and why the NC Pre-K program is so important for the families and young children in our state. We are building a strong foundation for the rest of their lives. Without a strong foundation the building will crumble. Their future success depends on a strong foundation. We need your help and support to help us build this amazing person that they can become. Thank you!

Kim Roney  
NC Pre-K Teacher  
Wakefield Creative School

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#3

**COMPLETE**

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**Q1**

## Contact Information

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**Q2**

Please submit your comments via the form below (500 words or less). The clerk will document your comments as part of the formal minutes of today's meeting.

Dear Wake County Commissioners,

My name is Hwa Huang. 7401 Ebenezer Church Rd, Raleigh, NC, 27612. I am the group chair for the Capital Group Sierra Club. Given the recent news that the NC DEQ has announced the public hearing date for Wake Stone's proposed quarry will be June 23, 2020, and on behalf of the Capital Group, I ask for the commissioners to submit a resolution to the DEMLR at [ncminingprogram@ncdenr.gov](mailto:ncminingprogram@ncdenr.gov) to deny Wake Stone's mining permit, due to its impact on:

1. Water, wetlands, and the Neuse River Buffer
2. The inadequate coverage of Wake Stone's current industrial stormwater permit for the expanded quarry, and lack of intent to seek stormwater coverage for potential new quarry.
3. Noise and vibration to the park
4. The inadequate reclamation plan concerning post-mining uses, especially in areas closest to the park.

Wake Stone submitted the modification application to mining permit 92-10 in the middle of the pandemic when the public was preoccupied with concern for shelter, food, jobs, and healthcare. However, in just two weeks' time, numerous efforts have contributed to the DEQ's decision to have a public hearing:

1. Over 480 messages sent from Sierra Club's statewide AddUp campaign
2. The NC Sierra Club has sent two letters to the DEQ detailing the environmental damages as reasons why the mining permit should be denied
3. Over 740 public comments submitted from The Umstead Coalition's campaign
4. A number of elected officials, such as Senator Wiley Nickel, have already reached out to the DEQ.

Additionally, one of our local Capital Group members and former vice chair, Elizabeth Adams, has come across information regarding the history of segregation and racial justice issues surrounding Umstead State Park. The Capital Group has recently submitted a letter requesting the DEQ conduct an Environmental Justice Snapshot Report.

While the DEQ has the final say on the matter, anyone can email to inform the DEQ ([ncminingprogram@ncdenr.gov](mailto:ncminingprogram@ncdenr.gov)) on the environmental detriment that the quarry would have on Umstead State Park. I respectfully urge the commissioners to join the public and other elected officials during this critical period, and write to the DEQ about the environmental impact the quarry would have on the state park, and call for denial of the mining permit.

Thank you for your time.

Best regards,  
Hwa Huang  
Group Chair  
Sierra Club Capital Group

#4

**COMPLETE**

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**Q1**

## Contact Information

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**Q2**

Please submit your comments via the form below (500 words or less). The clerk will document your comments as part of the formal minutes of today's meeting.

Dear Wake County Commissioners,

We recognize that, due to certain missteps on your part (e.g. unnecessarily shutting down Wake County's private sector and destroying our once vibrant local economy), you now find yourselves with lower than expected tax revenue. Who could have predicted that?

A budget shortfall is imminent. We understand you are desperate for ways to save money. We feel your pain. Due to your shutdown, we in the private sector have much experience with the hard decisions that a tightened budget necessitate.

Assuming you have exhausted your savings (if you had any), we would like to offer our help. In fact, it is really your own wisdom we will gladly return to you.

During your shut down of our local economy, you declared that some businesses were "essential" and some were "not essential". You got to pick the winners and the losers. You got to decide whom you would arrest for opening their businesses and who would not be prosecuted.

The Wake County government should balance its current budget by applying the same categorizations to itself. We ask that you balance the county budget by eliminating all "non-essential" spending. And we propose three main tools you might use to help determine what is and is not essential. They are as follows:

- 1.) Any services already being provided by cities, the private sector, the state government, or the federal government are duplicative and are NOT ESSENTIAL.
- 2.) If the elimination of any spending from any department will not result in lives being lost then it should automatically be considered NOT ESSENTIAL and must be proven to be essential by that department and approved by the Board.
- 3.) Money transfers to other organizations are NOT ESSENTIAL. Wake County government should not be funding charities and nonprofits. Charities and nonprofits should be raising money from individual and corporate donors by proving their value and doing good works. But currently, Wake County Commissioners are able to funnel money to THEIR favorite nonprofits. They may even be trying to get access to "alternative income" to get this done. (Is this money laundering?) As individuals Commissioners may donate where they please, but deciding where to donate OUR money is not an essential service of local government. Eliminate it.

We hope you'll take these action items to heart and incorporate them into planning for lost revenues.

Sincerely,  
Tyler Peek

#5

**COMPLETE**

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**Q1**

## Contact Information

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**Q2**

Please submit your comments via the form below (500 words or less). The clerk will document your comments as part of the formal minutes of today's meeting.

My name is Natalie Lew, and I live on Ebenezer Church Road, Raleigh, NC.

The past few days have been trying for communities all over this country given the protests over the unnecessary killing of a black man, George Floyd, by a white police officer. Racial injustice exists in many formats - wrongful detainment, wrongful incarceration, bad laws, taking of property, segregation, and just sweeping history under the rug.

Speaking of sweeping history under the rug, I recently learned that the Reedy Creek entrance to Umstead State Park off of Harrison Ave. was the African-American entrance during the time of segregation. For a significant period Umstead State Park used to be 2 parks, one for whites and one for blacks until 1966 – the only African American NC State Park. This Park entrance was proposed to close, fortunately, this extremely popular Park entrance remains open to an extremely diverse citizen and youth users. I have been using that entrance since 1980 when my family moved to this area, never hearing of this important history until now, 40 years later. Wake Stone Corporation already had their claws in that area, starting Triangle Quarry operations in 1981.

Another thing I learned within the past week is that the state park system wanted to acquire the private land where the current Triangle Quarry is located, but basically, the big money of Wake Stone Corporation beat out the resources of our state park system. The constellation prize for the state park system and one of the primary reasons the Triangle Quarry permit was granted after being initially denied was the Sunset Clause – the state park system would have first right of refusal for that land after NO MORE than 50 years.

Now, Wake Stone is reneging on their initial agreement to close the Triangle Quarry in 2031 (Sunset Clause) and they are attempting to create a new quarry pit on the Odd Fellows, another tract of land with significant history such as hosting Boy Scout camping outings until just recently, about 2017, when the RDUA forced them to stop.

So, the Odd Fellows has significant history AND the Reedy Creek entrance and that side of Umstead has significant history.

Wake Stone Management has imprisoned the Reedy Creek entrance for several decades and they are doing their darndest to increase the sentence. The African-American history of this area needs to be preserved and not swept under the rug.

By allowing Wake Stone to continue quarry operations on the Triangle Quarry and to create a new pit on Odd Fellows, you are partaking in harming significant African American history.

This land is not trash land; this land is a major asset – having not only significant recreation value, but very significant historic value. The Reedy Creek entrance and that side of the state park deserve a historic marker and not to be a dust bowl.

Due to significant public interest, NCDEQ will hold a Public Hearing. Given you are an owner of this land, please preserve the significant history of this land and:

- Ask NCDEQ to deny the quarry pit on Odd Fellows (public land)
- Ask NCDEQ to reinstate the Sunset Clause on the Triangle Quarry (private land next to Umstead State Park)

#6

**COMPLETE**

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**Q1**

## Contact Information

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**Q2**

Please submit your comments via the form below (500 words or less). The clerk will document your comments as part of the formal minutes of today's meeting.

The Rapid Responder program funded through the Wake Co Drug Overdose Prevention and Tobacco Use Initiative is critical in not just overcoming the opioid epidemic but in getting those with no hope and no access connected with people who understand the struggles and pitfalls of addiction. We are modernizing and we are leading.

From 1/1/2018 through 5/31/2020, 906 individuals were referred to the Rapid Responder Program with 740 coming from Wake EMS. Other referrals were individuals who left Healing Transitions and were struggling or members of the community needing help for their son, daughter, cousin, or other loved one. There have been 7,942 outreach attempts made either face-to-face, by phone call, or text message during this time period.

The Rapid Responders took charge as one of, if not the, first to lead outreach into the hotels which currently houses individuals at higher risk to COVID mortality. Our outreach grants the Healthy Hotel clients access to care since many struggle with mental health and substance use disorders. EOC leadership leveraged our action to entice other programs to join the outreach efforts.

Grant funding through DHHS has allotted for a part-time driver to transport individuals to local methadone clinics to receive their medication. Transportation to Methadone clinics is also being provided for a few individuals residing in hotels.

Quote from Drew L. on the value of our new transportation service:

"The transportation service has been extremely helpful. Prior to riding with George I would have to spend \$50 dollars to take an Uber from my house or go to the bus station at 5:30 am, ride at least an hour down Capital Blvd., take a \$10 Uber to get to the clinic and repeat the process coming back—this was typically a three hour ordeal. Working at the Marriot at 9:00 am, I cannot afford to take such expensive daily Uber rides or depend on the bus to get me to work on time. Now I can wake up without stressing about how I will get to my appointment. George consistently picks me up every day at the same time which has reduced the time it takes for me to get my medicine and back home to about 45 minutes. As a person who has overdosed six times, getting the medication I need has been vital for my recovery. Since starting eight months ago at Morse Clinic, I have not overdosed or touched any other type of drug. Currently, I live in a recovery house and my life has gotten tremendously better since embracing the recovery life. Thank you, George, for helping me in my recovery, you are awesome!"

It is necessary to continue funding this program because it improves the quality of life for its clients and the greater Wake County population. People deserve access to care and this program is bringing it to their front door. This program reaches the unreachable, brings hope to the despaired, and walks into the shadows to bring light.

#7

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**Q1**

Contact Information

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**Q2**

Please submit your comments via the form below (500 words or less). The clerk will document your comments as part of the formal minutes of today's meeting.

Wake Board should all resign, their leadership is a failure and has cost the county thousands of jobs, millions of dollars, and many lost lives and undue hardship because of their shutdown orders based on false models and loose facts.

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#8

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**Q1**

## Contact Information

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**Q2**

Please submit your comments via the form below (500 words or less). The clerk will document your comments as part of the formal minutes of today's meeting.

Please use alternate income to support funding for Marbles, East Wake Education Foundation, Communities in Schools of Wake County, North Carolina Symphony, and United Arts Council of Raleigh and Wake County. They are valuable resources for our community an economy should be supported.

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