City of Ocala
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Date: August 10, 2020
To: Jay A. Musleh, City Council President
From: Reuben Kent Guinn, Mayor
Re: Veto of Ordinance # 2020-47

Pursuant to Sections 2.13, 2.14 and 3.03 of the City of Ocala Charter, I am vetoing Ordinance # 2020-47 Requiring Face Coverings for Indoor Locations in order to Control the Spread of Covid-19; Providing for Penalties and Enforcement; Providing for Applicability and Conflict; and Providing for an Effective Date, for the following reasons:

1. It violates the First Amendment Freedom of Religion. The government cannot have you declare your religious beliefs in order to exercise your freedom of religion and as a means to being free of not wearing a government mandated mask.

2. The government cannot declare a church a business.

3. A person does not need to document or demonstrate a medical problem to be exempt from wearing a mask.

4. The burden of the violation is unfairly placed on the owner, not the person not wearing the mask.

5. Government cannot mandate a medical device to be worn.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 352-572-0312 or kguinn@ocalafl.org

c: Patrick G. Gilligan, City Attorney
   Robert W. Batsel, Jr., Assistant City Attorney
   Justin Grabelle, President Pro Tem
   Brent R. Malever, City Council
   Matthew Wardell, City Council
   Ire J. Bethea, City Council