Dear Board of County Commissioners and City Council Members,

I am writing to update you on our preparedness plans for Ebola as well as how the Health Department, the local healthcare systems, Emergency Management, the Charlotte-Douglas International Airport, and first responders are working together to protect the residents of Charlotte-Mecklenburg.

While the large Ebola outbreak continues in West Africa, the risk of an outbreak in the United States is very small. If an infected person arrives in Mecklenburg County, our healthcare system is prepared to respond and limit spread of the disease.

Here is the key information about how Ebola spreads:

- A person infected with Ebola virus is not contagious until symptoms appear.
- Ebola is spread through direct contact (through broken skin or unprotected mucous membranes in, for example, the eyes, nose or mouth) with blood or bodily fluids (such as urine, feces, saliva, semen, vomit, sweat).
- Ebola is not spread through the air, water or food.
- As with prevention of any communicable disease, it is important to practice careful hygiene including frequent hand washing, covering sneezes and coughs, and staying home when you are sick.
- Here is more information on Ebola transmission and prevention.

The Health Department has been in regular communication with the local healthcare systems, MEDIC, the Charlotte-Douglas International Airport and other organizations about the global Ebola situation and local preparedness. This group will be meeting together early next week and will have weekly meetings for the foreseeable future. We have been participating on regular conference calls with the NC Division of Public Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the US Department of Health and Human Services to learn about the changing situation and guidance. Additional information and guidance is being made available as it is developed.

If you receive calls from residents about Ebola, please direct them to call CharMeck 311 or the state Ebola information line at 1-800-222-1222. Both of these resources have information for the general public or people who may have symptoms. Healthcare providers have been given the 24/7 Health
Department Communicable Disease emergency number to call for reporting or questions. In an emergency, call 911.

Emergency Management will serve as the coordinating agency among all City and County departments in support of Health Department actions with the Charlotte Fire Department (CFD) serving in a response capacity to all emergency calls for service. The CFD Hazardous Materials Response Team will work with the Health Department to isolate any potentially infected scene and will coordinate with the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department (CMPD) if needed.

All media inquiries should be sent to the Mecklenburg County Health Department media relations contact Rick Christenbury at 704-577-2587.

Additional Information for education and information is available at the following web resources:

- Fact Sheet: What you need to know about Ebola
- Fact Sheet: Contact Tracing
- CDC Ebola Website
- World Health Organization: Message for the General Public

As we work together in a coordinated effort on preparedness for Ebola, including informing and educating our residents, I will continue to be available to talk to you about any concerns or issues that you may need addressed. We will be giving weekly updates to the community. My contact information is below:

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