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The Honorable Ralph S. Northam
Governor of Virginia
PO Box 1475
Richmond, VA 23218

Governor Northam:

On behalf of the City of Hopewell, I am writing to express our concern with the Commonwealth's vaccination process to date. As the local governing body, we hear daily from our constituents expressing their questions, frustrations, and uncertainty over when and if they will be able to receive a vaccine.

The City of Hopewell is a part of the Crater Health District, along with the Cities of Emporia and Petersburg. All three (3) communities received personal protective equipment (PPE) through your Health Equity Taskforce as a result of unserved populations within our communities. The health equity issue that existed when PPE was distributed still exists regarding the availability of vaccines to same underserved population.

The Crater Health District, based on the 2020 County Health Rankings report, is one of the unhealthiest health districts in the Commonwealth. Of the 133 communities ranked in the Commonwealth for Health Outcomes, Health Factors, and Social & Economic Factors, the Crater Health District scores:

Locality	Health Outcomes	Health Factors	Social & Economic Factors
City of Emporia	126	125	130
City of Hopewell	129	128	125
City of Petersburg	133	133	133
Dinwiddie County	73	103	83
Greensville County	118	121	114
Prince George County	37	71	50
Surry County	95	47	63
Sussex County	120	129	129

The Crater Health District localities have endured over 11,500 positive cases and 144 deaths. Currently, doses of the COVID-19 vaccine are being distributed by population. The Crater Health District is receiving 800 doses of the vaccine per week, which is scheduled to increase by 975 doses during the month of February. At a rate of 1,775 dose per week it will take over a year to vaccinate each resident of the district once. This is simply not acceptable. The citizens of Hopewell and the Crater Health District deserve better.

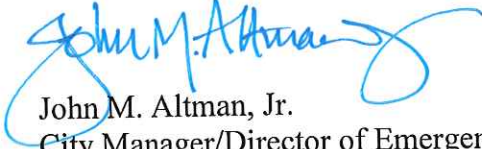
This demonstrated health equity issue in the Crater Health District brings to light the question of why isn't the health district receiving additional resources and assistance in the form of vaccines, staffing, and funding to address the health inequity. We know that Hopewell, and the Crater Health District, does not have

the resources to vaccinate all of the citizens of Hopewell, and the District, however we know that with the correct resources we can get it done. Locally we have already begun to identify sites for mass vaccinations, necessary logistical support, and distribution networks.

What is currently occurring is not equitable for our citizens, who look to their leaders to do what is in the best interest of the community. Therefore, we request that the Commonwealth consider health equity in the distribution of the vaccine supplies and increase the availability of the vaccine to Hopewell and the Crater Health District.

We appreciate your consideration of our request, and look forward to hearing from you. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Respectfully,



John M. Altman, Jr.
City Manager/Director of Emergency Management

JMAjr/dp

cc: The Honorable Hopewell City Council
Lieutenant Governor Justin E. Fairfax
Daniel Carey, MD, Secretary of Health and Human Services
M. Norman Oliver, MD, State Health Commissioner, Virginia Department of Health
Dr. Alton Hart, Director, Crater Health District
Carrie E. Coyner, Delegate, 62nd District
Joseph D. Morrissey, Senator, 16th District