

Atchison Co health order earns special meeting

**(KAIR)--Following discussion of the Atchison County Commission this week, regarding a proposed review of the County's in-place, COVID-19-related Local Health Order, a special meeting, focused on the topic, will be held Monday.**

**According to a release from County Clerk Michelle Phillips, the session is planned for 4:00 Monday afternoon, and comes at the request of Commission Chair Jack Bower.**

**Bower, during Tuesday's regular meeting of the Commission, stated that a special meeting, if County Health Officer Lori Forge were unable to attend the regular meeting of March 16, should be held to address the controversial health order.**

**That suggestion followed discussion related to the order, which has drawn criticism, including that of Mike Kuckelman, a Kansas City attorney who owns Atchison County property.**

**During the March 2 meeting of the County Commission, Kuckelman, who alleged the county health department was illegally deleting anti-health order comments on social media, challenged actions of Forge, and called the health order "a three-month Draconian order" imposed on Atchison County.**

**It was approved February 23 by the Commission 2 to 1, with Commissioner Casey Quinn saying no. It kept in place such virus-related mandates as the wearing of face masks in public and the number of those allowed to gather together.**

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