

1:30 p.m. Sept. 13, 2018

As Hurricane Florence approaches Sumter County, I just wanted to let our residents know what has been going on behind the scenes leading up to today.

City and county officials have been meeting daily since Sunday afternoon. This includes our first responders, some elected officials and department heads getting together to make sure we're all working together to bring about the best possible scenario for a largely unknown weather event.

Sometime later today it looks like we will begin to see the effects of the storm. First of all, please stay off the roads and stay home. We don't want to put our first responders in harm's way because someone wants a photo for social media. It's just not worth endangering yourself, so I just want to urge everyone to think about staying safe while we endure this weather.

During an historic flood a few years ago, I saw how resilient we are and how we can pull together in tough times and I'm proud when I see our citizens help one another.

We've created, on Sumter County's web site, a specific Hurricane News section so you'll have the latest information about shelters and all the official statements from Sumter County Government and the City of Sumter.

Stay safe, be patient, and let's pray for the best.

Sincerely,

Sumter County Council Chairman James T. McCain Jr.