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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **Creedmoor taking steps to secure virtual meetings**

**Creedmoor, N.C.** – Mayor Bobby Wheeler issued the following statement regarding the September 7, 2021 Board of Commissioners regular meeting:

The City of Creedmoor is committed to openness and transparency as we deliver high quality service to our citizens. The COVID-19 pandemic has at times forced us into using new technology to be able to continue with government operations, in particular, public meetings. We have used the video conferencing service Zoom to be able to provide our citizens, including members of the board, with a way to participate in our meetings without having to congregate in large gatherings. We have been able to operate for the last few months without any major disruptions.

At our meeting on September 7, 2021, we experienced our first disruption. During a presentation of Creedmoor's Operational Assessment, our presenter – who was participating via Zoom – lost control of his Zoom account after unknown individuals were able to hack into his account and began controlling his screen in addition to using the chat function to send messages which contained offensive language.

During this time, City Clerk and Public Information Officer James Hicks attempted to expel participants who began to unmute and disrupt the meeting before ultimately ending the Zoom meeting. We took a short recess to allow the Zoom meeting to be reassembled without the disruptors and the board continued with the city's business.

For future meetings, we will require Zoom participants to register prior to their admittance into the meeting.