



DALLAS COUNTY JUDGE CLAY LEWIS JENKINS

REMARKS FOR THE OCTOBER 10, 2014, FIELD HEARING

One Hundred Thirtieth Congress
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Homeland Security
Washington, DC

Local government has treated everyone involved in this Ebola crisis with dignity and compassion as fellow human beings; not merely as disease contacts.

In interacting with the family, it was important that I followed all CDC protocols to avoid any chance of spreading the virus. It was also important that I not move the family while wearing a hazmat suit; for them to see me face to face and for me to converse with them as equals.

That is a basic tenet of leadership and in keeping with modern medicine.

Louise Troh and the three young men have been handling an extraordinarily scary, sad and difficult situation with grace. Louise and Eric's nineteen-year-old son Karsiah is a fine young man forced to deal with the loss of his father without being able to hug and hold his mother.

The death of Eric Duncan is the loss of a father, fiancée, son and person loved by an extended family.

Forty-eight people were found to be potentially-exposed disease contacts by the excellent epidemiological and disease-detection work performed by Dallas County, the State of Texas and the federal government. For these 48 people and their families, this remains a tense and anxious period. They need all of our thoughts and prayers. Thankfully, all are without symptoms or fever on this twelfth day of monitoring.

We are one team, one fight and we are committed to working together.

We activated our Dallas County Emergency Operations Center and are operating under the Incident Command System with federal, state, county and city assets. Many partners, but one team.

One Team, One Fight! Simply said, there is no other way to stop Ebola.

There is a lot of fear out there and I understand why. Ebola is a scary, terrible viral disease. However, there is a zero percent chance of contracting Ebola without coming into contact with the bodily fluids of a symptomatic Ebola victim. People who have been exposed to Ebola but have no fever or symptoms cannot transmit the virus. We must not allow fear and panic to weaken our resolve nor abandon the values that built this great nation.

Everybody has a job to do in this outbreak. The federal, state and local governments are doing their jobs. I urge Congress to pass the appropriations necessary to fight Ebola in Africa which is the best way to stem the epidemic, protect humankind and for you to perform your important role in strengthening and streamlining the Ebola response in the United States.

We are doing something that has not been done before and we cannot fail. We will contain Ebola in Dallas, Texas. It's only a matter of time before the next case comes to our shores. Help us, help us win this fight. We must win now. Work with us to fight this disease abroad and strengthen our public health security.