Message from the City Manager to the Milpitas Community
3/31/2020

Dear Milpitas Community Members,

These past few weeks have been unlike any crisis many of us have faced before. I sincerely thank the many of you whom have chosen to stay home as directed, only going out for needed supplies. You are helping us to “flatten the curve” of the virus’s spread, and you are not only keeping yourselves safe, but you are protecting your neighbors, the elderly, and the most vulnerable in our community.

Today, Bay Area counties including Santa Clara County announced that they will be extending the shelter-in-place order through May 3. This means:

- Park playgrounds and courts will remain closed, though open park spaces will remain accessible for passive recreation.
- The Senior Center Lunch program remains To-Go only.
- City Council, Subcommittee, Commission meetings, and Community meetings will all be held in an online format. All meetings will be livestreamed and recorded, and there will be opportunity for public comment.
- Police and Fire personnel will continue to wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) such as masks, goggles, and gloves when responding to certain service calls.
- We will continue increased sanitation measures at the Milpitas Senior Center and other facility sites, including disinfecting hand rails, door handles, countertops, and elevators.
- Any public events planned before May 1 will be canceled. Other city programs will remain suspended until the Shelter-In-Place order is lifted. For a full list of programs, services, and events affected, please visit the Recreation webpage.
- All City personnel who are not required to work in the field are now working from home. Personnel with essential field jobs, such as public safety and public works staff, will still be responding to emergency calls and performing their crucial maintenance and repair jobs. Your sheltering in place at home helps them do their jobs safely.

The City of Milpitas is also monitoring and preparing for the fiscal impacts of the economic downturn that is already happening in response to COVID-19. I have instituted a hiring freeze except for essential positions related to COVID-19, but we do not anticipate any other changes in staffing levels. I am confident the City can get through this with thoughtful fiscal planning and program budget updates.

As always, I urge you to stay safe by taking the steps recommended by public health officials to reduce risk to yourself and others:

- Remain at home unless you need urgent supplies. Limit leaving the house for nonessential activities.
- If you must go out, practice social distancing and remain at least six (6) feet away from anyone you do not live with.
• Wash your hands with soap frequently for twenty seconds at a time. Avoid touching your face.
• Frequently clean surfaces in your home that you often touch, including doorknobs, light switches, and countertops. Disinfect your cell phone and keys.
• Keep your immunity strong by getting 7-9 hours of sleep each night, drinking plenty of water, eating healthy food, and managing your stress.
• When you feel sick, stay home and stay away from others in your household.

The situation around COVID-19 is regularly changing, and we will continue to monitor it and make adjustments as needed to our City operations to protect you and our employees. I am extremely thankful for the support of our City Council as we work through this challenging situation. The Mayor and Council play an important role in helping to educate our community on the importance of the shelter-in-place orders, and to engage community partners on efforts that will benefit Milpitas residents and businesses.

While it's normally said that people are stronger together, in this case, we are stronger with at least six feet of distance between us. But that doesn't mean you have to be isolated. Call your friends and family, talk to your neighbors at a safe distance, and connect with others on Nextdoor or other social media platforms. While we can't physically be close, we are still in this together, and that's how we'll get through this.

Sincerely,

Steve McHarris
Interim City Manager

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