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3-19-20 Press Conference

The City of Joliet continues to closely monitor the COVID-19 virus and the impacts on the community. We are closely communicating with local, state, and federal government agencies as well as local community groups.

Facilities: As you know from health reports, the number of diagnosed COVID-19 cases are rising as testing becomes more widespread. This is occurring in Illinois as well as Will County. Since the spread of the virus is through human interactions, we are announcing the closure of City Hall to the public, effective 4:30 PM tomorrow. The closure will be until further notice. While there are presently no reports of any health threat at City Hall, reducing the number of human interactions will be in keeping with recommendations to help flatten the curve with regard to potential transmissions of the virus.

It is our intent to continue business operations to the public and other stakeholders through alternative means. If we can accomplish business and limit interaction, we can hopefully do our part to reduce the spread of the virus in the community and beyond.

I must stress that the City of Joliet remains in business.

Limited services will also be available in the lobby of the Joliet Police Department, including a Customer Service kiosk that accepts credit card payments and appointment only Real Estate Transfer Stamps transactions. Residents can continue to utilize the drop box located outside City Hall for Water Payments.

Effective immediately, all City Committee and Commission meetings are canceled through March 31st. Please reference the City of Joliet Meetings and Agendas page on the City's website for additional changes.

White House Briefing Overview:

Senior Resident Resources: A resource page for Senior residents has been created on the City's website. This page offers resource information, links to community agencies offered to seniors, and volunteer opportunities. If a resident is unable to access our website, please call the City's Information Desk at 815-724-4000.

Community Partners/Conference Call

The City of Joliet facilitated a community partners conference call yesterday. On the call was:

- **Chamber of Commerce**
- **Will County Lodging Association**
- **Library**
- **Senior Services of Will County**
- **United Way**
- **Silver Cross**
- **Joliet Park District**
- **Joliet YMCA**
- **Joliet Junior College**
- **University of St. Francis**
- **Joliet School District 86**
- **Joliet School District 204**

The City of Joliet wanted to know:

1. How are our community partners being affected?
2. What are their plans moving forward?
3. Can the City help?
4. Can the City relay any challenges to the Governor's office?

The conference call was very productive. Communication is key during these times and this call opened up the communications channels to not only the City but between community partners. They are all continuing to assist those they serve and the community as a whole.

For example, many of these organizations are doing very important work. Senior Services of Will County and United Way are partnering to deliver food to seniors. School District 86 and School District 204 have delivered hundreds of meals students. Students are also

actively studying remotely via an online portal. School District 204 indicated they are impressed with how many students are logging in to do their school work.

The City does intent on periodically having these conference call and including more organizations and agencies. The City wants to commend all our community partners for the work they are doing.

Door to Door Solicitation/ US Census Field Operations have been suspended.

Business Assistance: The foremost importance right now is the health and safety of our residents. However, the City also understands that this is going to have a global impact and Joliet businesses will be affected.

The federal and state government also understands the impact on the economy and is preparing legislation that is aimed at assisting small businesses and individuals affected by COVID-19. This information is very fluid. On the webpage created by staff you can find the latest information regarding assistance from the federal government and State of Illinois.

At the local level, the City has decided to take steps to ease the burden on its small businesses. The City will be waiving all **penalties and interest** for food and beverage tax and sales tax. **Penalties and interest, not payment.** We have also provided a list of restaurants that are offering delivery and carry-out options for those who are seeking those services.