

Mayor Domenic J. Sarno's City of Springfield COVID-19 Situational Update

Wednesday, April 15, 2020

Mayor Domenic J. Sarno, in the best interests of our residents and business community, continues his daily morning meetings with his cabinet heads as they work 24/7 to facilitate and coordinate with all of our local, state, federal, and public and private partners in response to the COVID-19 situation.

Below are the most recent updates as reported from each City Departments.

Mayor's Office

- Continues to coordinate the city's efforts with all stakeholders (state, federal, hospital and medical facilities, public and private partners, etc.) in response of services and relief and recovery measures.
- Continuing to monitor the COVID-19 situation closely so that we do not reopen and ease our prudent measures too early, which could potentially expose our residents to second wave of the virus.
- Heartfelt thank you to our Springfield Community for continuing to stepping up with PPE donations, allowing the city to outfit our dedicated police, fire and frontline workers with the appropriate safety equipment.
 - Retired Springfield City Clerk Attorney Wayman Lee, Jesse Spinks (one of Springfield's all-time hoop greats - High School of Commerce) and Andrew Keaton through their non-profit organization the C.R.E.W., joined with Mayor Sarno and Health and Human Services Commissioner Helen Caulton-Harris to donate 100 KN95 masks for our city's Police and Fire Departments
 - Chuck Jacobs, husband to Springfield Public Schools Principal Rhonda Jacobs, dropped off two thermal infrared thermometer for our Police and Fire Departments
 - Dave Horgan, Media Instructure at the Springfield Conservatory of the Arts donated 100 N95 masks for our frontline and homeless providers
- Mayor Sarno and Health Commissioner Helen Caulton-Harris welcomed the arrival of COVID-19 testing kits thanks to the efforts from Congressman Richard E. Neal and the Baker-Polito Administration to continue proactive preventative healthcare to our vulnerable homeless population
- Mayor Sarno after consulting with Chief Administrative and Financial Officer TJ Plante, has ordered a hiring and spending freeze for the City of Springfield unless it is for emergency or essential services

Health

- Announced 38 new cases of Springfield residents testing positive for COVID-19 (Coronavirus).
- Total positive cases now at 601
- Continues to monitor potential COVID-19 cluster locations across the city, especially at our long-term care facilities.
- School nurses continue to help with contact tracing
- Announced the continued need and importance of adhering to all public health, personal hygiene and social distancing procedures.
- Homeless tenting full facilities and operations up and running
- City of Springfield COVID-19 hotline - (413) 750-3250

Elder Affairs

- Continues to do wellness checks on a daily basis with people in senior housing complexes and associated with senior centers.
- Continues to deliver meals to seniors in need, including over the weekend.

DPW

- Down 1
- Trash and recycling continue to be picked up.
- Streets and Engineering continue to provide services.
- Yard waste collection continues.
- Major roadway construction to start Monday, April 20, 2020 at Mill Street / Ft. Pleasant Ave and Locust Street areas

Eco Dev

- Continues to review and secure additional funding for restaurant and small business assistance grants.
- Currently accepting applications for the second round of the restaurant and small business “Prime the Pump” grant program - \$500,000 funding available – over 60 applications submitted so far
 - Reminder that the deadline for applications are due Thursday April 16th at 3:00pm.
- Continues to review and identify Federal stimulus funding to focus on local efforts for relief and recovery for our residents and small businesses.
- The first round of Prime the Pump funding is schedule to be distributed this week.

Finance

- Participated in economic roundtable discussion with state officials and economists concerning economic impact upon projected federal, state and municipal revenue shortfalls due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic
- The City of Springfield continues to explore all public and private means in which to secure additional PPE’s for our Police and Fire Departments and our first responders and frontline personnel.
- Continues to monitor all federal and state relief and recovery funding mechanisms.
- Implementing strategic spending measures to identify areas of need, relief and recovery while also trying to maintain city services for residents and business community.
- Continues to monitor lost revenue – city and state
- Continues proactive meetings with Josh Norman of GP Strategies to track, identify, and implement relief and recovery reimbursement aspects.

Parks and Facilities

- Consulting with Bob Kirchherr, CSP, Principal and Indoor Air Quality and Industrial Hygienist for O'Reilly, Talbot & Okun Engineering Associate on city's COVID-19 site operations
- Continuing the deep cleaning of all city buildings and facilities
- Continuing to monitor our parks on social distancing aspects
- Installing signs at city parks recommending residents wear face coverings

Public Safety

Fire

- Down 4
- Announced Food Drive to help residents in need. Non-perishable food items can be donated and dropped off at city fire stations. Residents are encouraged to call ahead or ring the door bell and to leave items at the door for social distancing aspects.
- Desperate need for thermal infrared thermometers

Police

- Down 20
- Continue to provide anti-crime activity
- The National Guard and State Police continue to work alongside SPD
- Desperate need for thermal infrared thermometers

Schools

- To date, Sodexo has served 227,054 meals to Springfield Public Schools students since the program began on March 12th (meals included breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks).
 - Will continue to distribute meals on Patriots Day, Monday, April 20, 2020
- Continues to distribute laptops to students for remote learning – over 10,000 are currently being given out on top of the 7,000 our students had already been using prior to pandemic

Law/HR/Labor

- Continues to assist and advise all departments on pertinent city business