



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

Monday, April 6, 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.
- Continues with regular Monday update press conferences with President and CEO of Baystate Health Dr. Mark Keroack and Chief Medical Officer of Mercy Medical Dr. Robert Roose
- Notified by Sheriff Nick Cocchi that the Hampden County Sheriff's Department will be opening a First Responder Recover Home for our frontline workers who may need to isolate and quarantine themselves due to exposure with COVID-19 (Coronavirus).
- On Sunday, coordinating with Governor Baker on a contingency plan to utilize the MassMutual Center as a possible surge site location for residents if needed, and requested ventilators for Baystate and Mercy hospitals.
- Toured the city's fully operational and state of the art homeless tenting facility on Saturday, April 4, 2020.
- Directed the City's Administration and Finance Department to bring relief to our residents and business community by adjusting the due date for 4th quarter property taxes to June 1 instead of May 1.
- Along with Health Commissioner Caulton-Harris, again stressed the importance of face covering while out in public where people are in transit. These face coverings can include scarves, bandanas, face shields, etc. Please save the surgical and N95 masks for our first responders and frontline personnel.
- Welcomed and greeted National Guard members with Police Commissioner Cheryl Clapprod at the Springfield Police Department.
- MassMutual reached out to Mayor Sarno to help assist with the city's temporary homeless tent facility operations.

Health

- Announced 24 new cases of Springfield residents testing positive for COVID-19 (Coronavirus) late Friday evening.
 - 10 new cases Saturday
 - 35 new cases Sunday
- Total positive cases now at 221
- Continues to monitor potential COVID-19 cluster locations across the city, especially at our long-term care facilities.
- School nurses started today 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 plan moving forward quickly for anticipated opening later this week.
- Health Commissioner Helen Caulton-Harris will be sending out a series of rob calls (English and Spanish) to residents and businesses reminding them of the importance of social distancing and adhering to all public health measures.
- Mapping aspects have started to track virus areas and demographics

Elder Affairs

- Continues to do wellness checks on a daily basis with people in senior housing complexes and associated with senior centers.
 - Over 6000 wellness checks have been done so far
- Continues to deliver meals to seniors in need, including over the weekend.

City Council

- Scheduled a virtual meeting for April 6, 2020.

DPW

- Trash and recycling continue to be picked up.
- Streets and Engineering continue to provide services
- Yard waste scheduled to begin Tuesday, April 7, 2020.

Eco Dev

- Continues to review and secure additional funding for restaurant and small business assistance grants.
- Announced first round for the restaurant “Prime the Pump” grant program
 - 30 restaurants have be notified of funding
- Second round of restaurant and small business assistance grants being formalized and program guidelines being drafted. Announcement to be made later this week.
- Continues to review and identify Federal stimulus funding to focus on local efforts for relief and recovery for our residents and small businesses.

Finance

- Announced that following the state Legislature and Governor Baker approving a municipal relief bill, the City of Springfield will adjust the collection date for 4th Quarter Real Estate Taxes to June 1, 2020, instead of the original due date of May 1, 2020.
- 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.
- \$1 million in lost city revenue to date with \$673,000 spent in response of COVID-19

- Once again, city has retained the services of Josh Norman, Director of Homeland Security and Emergency Management for GP Strategies (as we did with the tornado and other natural and manmade disasters) to go after every dime of reimbursement monies from FEMA (federal) and MEMA (state).

Public Safety

Fire

- Down 6 – 5 firefighters and 1 dispatcher

Police

- Down 24 officers
- Continue to provide anti-crime activity
 - Arrest of violent repeat offenders continue
 - Illegal guns continue to be taken off our streets
- Received vital N95 Masks today for our Police Officers thanks to the Boston Police and Chelsea Police Departments – Special thanks to Police Commissioners William Gross (Boston) and Brian Kyes Chelsea).
- Commissioner Clapprood continues to assist courts in Springfield Police Department facilities with domestic violence and sex offender registry initiatives.

Schools

- 10,487 meals served (meals included breakfast, lunch and dinner)
- 109,522 meals have been served overall.
- Over 10,000 laptops are scheduled to be distributed to students this week

School Committee

- Will begin to conduct their April meetings virtually.
 - The Budget and Finance Subcommittee Meeting will take place Wednesday, April 8th at 3 p.m. and the meeting of the full School Committee will take place on Thursday, April 9th at 6:30 p.m.
 - Both meetings will air live on Focus Springfield Channel 17. The meetings will also be livestream at <http://focusspringfield.com/watch/government> and on the Springfield Public Schools website at www.springfieldpublicschools.com. Re-runs of the meeting will be available on demand on both websites and as regularly scheduled programming on Focus Springfield Channel 17.