

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

**Tuesday, April 7, 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 to hold daily morning cabinet head meetings utilizing remote platforms to encourage social distancing.
- Joined on a conference call with state Senator James Welch
  - Provided an update on pending state legislation and relief and recovery monies
  - Provided an update on the status of the state budget
- MGM Springfield coordinating with Mayor Sarno's administration to provide bed cots and heaters in support of the city's continued efforts in response to the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) situation.

## **Health**

- Announced 33 new cases of Springfield residents testing positive for COVID-19 (Coronavirus)
- Total positive cases now at 254
- Continues to monitor potential COVID-19 cluster locations across the city, especially at our long-term care facilities.
- School nurses continue to assist 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 as soon as tomorrow.
- 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.
- Working to establish a dedicated COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Hotline

## **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

## **City Council**

- Held virtual meeting yesterday, April 6, 2020

## **DPW**

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

## **Eco Dev**

- Continues to review and secure additional funding for restaurant and small business assistance grants.
- 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 due date for personal exemptions and abatements to June 1, 2020. The original due date for senior, widows(ers), veterans, and blind persons were due April 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.
- Continues to monitor lost revenue – city and state

## **Public Safety**

### **Fire**

- Down 7 Fire Department personnel

### **Police**

- Down 23 officers
- Continue to provide anti-crime activity
- Continue to coordinate logistics with the National Guard to compliment SPD operations.
- 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).
- As part of the municipal relief legislation, which was recently approved by the state Legislature, and Governor Baker, 15 retired Springfield Police Officers are ready to step up and return to service to assist our police department operations during these challenging times.

## **Schools**

- 12,510 meals served (meals included breakfast, lunch and dinner)

- 122,032 meals have been served overall.
- Over 10,000 laptops continue 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 8<sup>th</sup> at 3 p.m. and the meeting of the full School Committee will take place on Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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.