



MAYOR BYRON W. BROWN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MAYOR BYRON W. BROWN ANNOUNCES IMPORTANT UPDATES TO BUFFALO'S RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 EMERGENCY

*Mayor Brown urges residents to wear protective face covering
after Governor Cuomo extends NY on Pause*

Buffalo, NY – Today, Mayor Byron W. Brown called on residents to wear masks or face coverings to comply with Governor Cuomo's Executive Order, which goes into effect Friday, April 17, 2020 at 8pm. All residents ages 2-years-old and up must wear a face covering in areas where practicing social distancing is not possible. Today, Governor Cuomo announced that New York's PAUSE Executive Order will be extended in coordination with other states to May 15, 2020. Non-essential workers must continue to stay home and physical distancing will remain in place.

Mayor Brown stated, "Physical distancing has helped keep the number of infections down in the City of Buffalo and across New York State, but in areas where there are more people, extra precautions are necessary. I applaud Governor Cuomo for continuing to implement sensible measures to protect public health and ask residents to comply with the order. We must do whatever it takes to keep our neighbors safe and healthy while we work together to stop the spread of this deadly virus."

Businesses: Watch out for scams

Mayor Brown is warning business owners that scammers are continuing to take advantage of the COVID-19 crisis. Small business owners seeking assistance through the Small Business Administration's (SBA) Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), should ensure they are dealing with trusted lenders. PPP loans are forgivable, low-interest loans guaranteed by the federal government in response to the economic hardships that have occurred because of the COVID-19 pandemic. PPP lenders and agents are not permitted to charge borrowers fees, and the interest rates for all PPP loans are set at 1%. PPP loans are available to small businesses, non-profits and religious organizations with 500 or fewer employees (with some exceptions) and to sole proprietorships, independent contractors, and self-employed persons. For more information about PPP loans, visit sba.gov. For tips on how to avoid Coronavirus scams, visit ag.ny.gov.

Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Centennial Park Reopens

Mayor Brown announced today that the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Centennial Park has reopened. It was closed Sunday night ahead of the Monday wind storm.

Parking reminder

Mayor Brown reminds City residents to cooperate with the City's alternate parking rules. Please obey the "No Parking 6 pm Thursday to 6 pm Monday" signs. We need to ensure that emergency vehicles can get down these streets.

The Buffalo Police Department continues its efforts to help prevent overdoses

The Buffalo Police Department advances efforts to combat a recent rise in overdoses in the City of Buffalo by continuing to

distribute Naloxone (also known as Narcan). Officers will be handing out Naloxone tomorrow from 10am to 1pm at Elmwood and Bidwell. Naloxone temporarily blocks the effects of opioids, and can reverse an overdose. If you or someone you know is struggling with addiction, call the Erie County Department of Health's 24 Hour Addiction Hotline at 716-831-7007.

Help Buffalo's COVID-19 recovery by completing your census

Residents can help ensure that the City of Buffalo gets its fair share of federal funding by completing your 2020 census questionnaire. Without an accurate count, the City will lose hundreds of millions of dollars in aid that will be needed during the aftermath of the COVID-19 crisis. As of April 16th, the City of Buffalo's census response rate is 38.4%, which still lags behind Erie County's 53% response rate as well as the national response rate of 49.1%. Please encourage your family, friends and neighbors to complete their forms at 2020Census.gov.

Organizers cancel 2020 Buffalo Cherry Blossom Festival, but offer virtual events

The Olmsted Parks Conservancy announced that the popular 2020 Buffalo Cherry Blossom Festival has been canceled due to the COVID-19 emergency. The Conservancy, along with the Buffalo History Museum and the Friends of the Japanese Garden will host a special digital program on Saturday, May 2, 2020, showcasing the world famous peak blooms for people to enjoy from the safety of their homes. Stay tuned to the Cherry Blossoms Reimagined Facebook event for the schedule's full line-up.

Reminder: Curbside service is available at The Broadway Market

Starting today, shoppers can call a participating Broadway Market vendor(s), place a pre-paid order and pick-up their product(s). Same day service is now available, with no need to reserve a pick-up time. The program will run Monday through Saturday from 8am to 5pm, until further notice. Customers can also call the Broadway Market at 893-0705 to place curbside orders. For more information about the program, including a list of participating vendors, visit www.buffalony.gov.

The spirit of generosity continues in the City of Good Neighbors

Mayor Brown thanks Frankie Primo's for delivering 500 homemade pizzas to Buffalo Firehouses and Police Stations citywide as a show of appreciation during the COVID-19 emergency.

"I thank owner Jay Manno for this incredible act of gratitude. We are all experiencing a tough time right now but it is gestures like these that show our first responders just how important their service is to us all."

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