



MAYOR BYRON W. BROWN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Aaron Fallon
afallon@city-buffalo.com

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

Mayor Brown urges residents to remain vigilant in COVID-19 crisis

Buffalo, NY – Mayor Byron W. Brown today renewed his call on residents to stay the course and continue to obey guidelines as local, state and national levels of government continue to respond to the COVID-19 emergency. On Thursday, Governor Andrew Cuomo extended the moratorium on evictions for those experiencing COVID-related financial hardships for another 60 days, thereby extending those protections until August 20th. The Governor's Executive Order continued the ban on late fees and missed payment fees during this period.

Mayor Brown stated, "I thank Governor Cuomo for continuing to make health and public safety the top priority in our response to the COVID-19 emergency and his recognition of the need to mitigate the economic hardships many residents are experiencing. I cannot stress enough the importance of residents continuing to follow the Executive Order to practice physical distancing, cover your faces when in close quarters with others in public and please refrain from gatherings of any kind. Together, we can combat community spread of this deadly virus."

Helping families in need on the East Side

Mayor Brown thanked the Independent Health Foundation, Independent Health and Pegula Sports & Entertainment for teaming up to deliver wellness and produce bags to residents in need this morning at the Northland Workforce Training Center. Approximately 600 wellness bags and 800 produce bags from the African Heritage Food Co-Op were distributed today.

"I am so proud of the generous organizations that have really stepped up during this crisis to lift others up. We are so blessed to have such great neighbors here in the City of Buffalo. We must continue to stay strong and united as we get through this emergency together."

The wellness bags included hand sanitizer, masks, soap, toothbrushes, and other personal items, plus an inflatable soccer beach ball, a jump rope, and sidewalk chalk for kids. The produce bags contained various fruits and vegetables, along with recipe cards for easy, affordable meals. An additional 10,000 wellness bags will be given out May 13th when families pick up their free meals at the City's 21 community schools.

Mayor Brown provides update on the Fire and Police Departments

Mayor Brown announced today that there is continued improvement in the numbers of COVID-19 infection recoveries at the Buffalo Fire and Police Departments.

- 2 Firefighters are currently positive for the virus, and 7 others are on administrative leave as a precaution, 39 firefighters have recovered and returned to work;
- 3 Police Officers are currently positive for the virus while 16 officers are out on administrative leave. 63 officers have recovered and returned to work.

The emergency response services provided by both Buffalo Police and Fire remain operational without any interruption in services. The Administration continues to take precautions, including deep cleanings of Police Stations, Firehouses and vehicles, to help protect our first responders.

U.S. Secretary of Commerce troubled by City of Buffalo Census response rate

Mayor Brown spoke with the United States Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross yesterday who expressed concern over the City of Buffalo's current Census response rate of 44.8%. As of May 8th, the national response rate is currently 57.7%, nearly 13% above the City of Buffalo's rate. An accurate count is critical in order for the City to receive its fair share of Federal funding, hundreds of millions of dollars that can be used for community programs, education, infrastructure and other projects that will be needed during the recovery phase of the COVID-19 emergency. Mayor Brown continues to call on all residents to complete their questionnaires today at 2020Census.gov.

COVID-19 Testing Available for all Essential City Employees

Mayor Brown urges all essential City of Buffalo employees who are concerned about exposure to make an appointment to get tested for COVID-19. The tests are available at the following location without requiring a prescription from a primary care doctor:

New York State Drive-Thru Testing Site

125 Perry Street

Open daily, 8AM – 6M

Schedule an appointment by calling 888.364.3065 or go to: covid19screening.health.ny.gov

Memorial Day Veterans Service at Forest Lawn Cemetery canceled due to COVID-19

Organizers have canceled the annual Memorial Day ceremony honoring our beloved Veterans at Forest Lawn this year due to the Coronavirus outbreak. The event was set to take place on Monday, May 25th. Organizers are working on a different way to pay tribute to our lost Veterans this year. We will pass along further information as soon as they are announced.

Helping Gold Star Mothers

Mayor Brown encourages residents to help support Gold Star Mothers of Western New York this Mother's Day. On Sunday, May 10th, the Buffalo Blues for Veterans is hosting its weekly online live stream concert series to benefit the organization, which helps mothers, grandmothers and others who have lost a child during active duty service in the military. For more information, visit the Buffalo Blues Live Stream Series Facebook page.

The City of Buffalo honors mothers this Mother's Day

Mayor Brown today announced that on Sunday, May 10th, Buffalo City Hall will be PINK and GREEN in recognition of Mother's Day.

Mayor Brown stated, "This Mother's Day, please join me in recognizing the many strong, incredible mothers and mother figures who take care of us and help make the City of Buffalo the best place to live. The COVID-19 emergency should not prevent you from safely letting your mother or mother figure know just how grateful you are to have them in your life."

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