



MAYOR BYRON W. BROWN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

Buffalo, NY - Mayor Byron W. Brown and the City of Buffalo continue to work to ensure public safety, prioritize the health and welfare of residents and visitors, and reduce circles of exposure to COVID-19 in our community. Like other areas in the state and nation, the number of confirmed cases and deaths due to the virus continues to grow locally.

Mayor Brown stated, "As the number of confirmed cases continues to rise, my Administration continues to make proactive efforts to ensure the safety of all residents. City employees are working hard to ensure continuous delivery of services while also taking steps to limit the spread of infection. However, no one is immune to the Coronavirus and transmission of it remains something we are examining on a daily basis. Many of our First responders have tested positive for COVID 19."

He continued, "City cleaning crews have been, and are still performing, deep cleans in all firehouses and police stations, as just one measure we are taking to protect our first responders. We will continue to take whatever precautions are required to protect their health and safety."

At this time, 16 Buffalo Firefighters have tested positive for the virus, and 40 others are on administrative leave as a precautionary measure. 17 Buffalo Police Officers have tested positive, while 20 officers are out on administrative leave.

COMMUNITY CONTINUES TO STEP UP:

- Providing our first responders with the appropriate protective equipment remains a critical priority. Mayor Brown thanked Pastor Rodrick Hennings of Zion Dominion Church of God in Williamsville for today donating Personal Protective Equipment to the City for use by our first responders
- In addition to the work of Buffalo's public employees, incredible healthcare workers, first responders, grocery store workers, postal and delivery service employees and countless other essential staff, this afternoon, Osteria 166 and Thurman and Patti Thomas donated 1,000 meals to help feed people in need here in the City of Buffalo.
 - Mayor Brown stated, "This generosity is exactly why we are known around the world as The City of Good Neighbors. We take care of our own, through thick and thin. I also thank Pastor Giles for distributing these meals, and for ensuring that they get into the hands of our community's most vulnerable residents."

SHOWING APPRECIATION:

- This morning, Mayor Brown spoke to hundreds of Department of Public Works employees to express his gratitude for their dedication in helping to maintain a vital City service during this emergency. He stated,

“Coronavirus has disrupted every facet of our lives and these individuals’ hard work are allowing us to maintain some level of normalcy in our daily lives. Along with the other City of Buffalo Government employees who are working to ensure effective and timely delivery of services, I want to express my special thanks and appreciation for all that they are doing.”

- Mayor Brown encouraged those who are healthy and looking for ways to help to join his Good Neighbors Network. Sign up at buffalony.gov/volunteer
- Mayor Brown today directed the Buffalo Landmark Illumination Team (BUFFALOLIT) to light their structures Red and White this Sunday, April 5th, in honor of health care workers and first responders on the front lines of this health emergency

CLOSURES AND CANCELLATIONS:

- Evergreen Health Services, Group Ministries, St. Lawrence Parish Outreach and the Matt Urban Center Food Pantry are closed until further notice
- The Buffalo Police Department’s Citizen Academy, which was set to begin on May 5th, has now been canceled

BEWARE OF SCAMMERS

Unfortunately, there are some individuals who are trying to take advantage of the COVID-19 emergency.

- Mayor Brown shared news from the Federal Trade Commission that reports that scammers are using robocalls and the promise of testing kits/home vaccinations to get information
- If you get a suspicious phone call or email asking for personal information please do not respond and report it to the proper authorities
- For more information, go to consumer.ftc.gov

POSITIVE NEWS:

In other updates, even though COVID-19 is having a profound impact on our regional economy, Buffalo is still demonstrating to the business community that we are a good place to invest.

- The Buffalo Urban Development Corporation Board approved a lease for Rodriguez Construction Group to move their corporate headquarters to Northland Central
- They will occupy the entire third floor of the historic building. This brings the Northland Central building to approximately 98 % occupancy

REMINDERS:

Another simple way to help our community is to give blood.

- Connectlife reports that it is still experiencing a major shortage in its blood supply
- If you are healthy, please consider donating; to make an appointment, call 716-529-4270 or connectlifegiveblood.org

Mayor Brown talked about the importance of residents completing their Census forms.

- He stated, “If we don’t have an accurate count, we will be denied our fair share of federal funding, which will most likely be needed in the wake of the COVID-19 emergency. We already know that 10 years ago there was a significant undercount in the City, we cannot have that happen again. The response rate is still only around 25%. Please complete your census form today.”
- Go to 2020Census.gov to fill out your form

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