



MAYOR BYRON W. BROWN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Lorey Schultz

(716) 851-5545

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. Today, Mayor Byron W. Brown announced new safety measures at Delaware Park to further support social distancing in a continued effort to stop the spread of COVID-19 cases in the Buffalo community.

Mayor Brown stated, "As the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Erie County continues to grow, we need to do more to try to stop the spread of the virus. Social distancing is our defense that can protect public health and safety. With the arrival of sunshine and warmer temperatures, many will want to spend more time outdoors, especially at the popular Delaware Park. But we need to do more to get park patrons to spread out. So today, I am announcing that we are closing the Delaware Park Loop to vehicular traffic. Pedestrians and bicyclists can still use the loop, only vehicles are restricted." As part of Buffalo's continuing response to the COVID-19 emergency, Mayor Brown announced that, effective Monday, April 6, 2020, the City is closing the Delaware Park Loop to vehicular traffic, a necessary step to limit the amount of vehicles driving and parking on that road to maximize park space for passive use social distancing at one of Buffalo's most visited parks. Pedestrians and bicyclists can still enjoy the ring at Delaware Park; only vehicles are restricted.

Mayor Brown stated, "Again, I want to emphasize the importance of being physically distant while getting exercise in our parks. We continue to hear reports of residents playing basketball or other sports. These activities involve physical contact and can aid in spreading the coronavirus. Your health, your family's health, your neighbor's health, everyone's health is on the line right now. Parks remain open but for passive use only. All playgrounds, skate parks, athletic fields and courts, golf courses and park facilities are closed. Buffalo Police will be patrolling to ensure compliance."

With that, he announced a number of convenient parking options in the Delaware Park area.

Mayor Brown announced that the City of Buffalo is partnering with the Buffalo Zoo to open its parking lot, located at the corner of Parkside and Jewett, to park-goers.

- He is asking park-goers, who use the Buffalo Zoo parking lot, to consider donating to the Zoo via the Buffalo Roam Parking App
- The Buffalo Zoo has been closed to the public due to the Coronavirus. Without visitors, the park is losing revenue to care for its many exotic animals
- On the Buffalo Roam Parking App, select "BUFFZOO" and choose whatever amount you'd like to contribute; donations will go directly to the zoo to help care for the animals that we all love to visit
- The Buffalo Zoo parking lot will only be open during park hours, sunrise to sunset. Vehicles parked in the lot after 10 pm can be ticketed and or towed. Police will be patrolling and enforcing the Governor Andrew Cuomo's order prohibiting congregating

Parking will be available in the following areas:

- The Agassiz Circle Lot (corner of Parkside and Route198)
- The St. George's Lot (near the Park's entrance on Amherst Street)
- Crandall Drive (between Colvin and Amherst)
- Nottingham Road (between Delaware and Amherst)

Mayor Brown also re-emphasized today that emergency response services, provided by both Buffalo Police and Fire, continue with no interruption in services, and both are prepared to respond to the needs of the community.

- 28 Firefighters have tested positive for the virus, and 42 others are currently on administrative leave as a precautionary measure, 3 of those positive firefighters have recovered and returned to work
- And 21 Police Officers have tested positive while 28 officers are out on administrative leave. None of the officers have recovered and returned to work yet

Mayor Brown stated, "Again, I want to emphasize that services to residents and businesses remain unaffected, our workforce is prepared to respond to any needs. Cleaning crews are deep cleaning police station houses and fire houses. We will continue to take whatever all possible precautions to protect the health and safety of our First Responders."

OTHER UPDATES/REMINDERS

Buffalo Lights Up tonight in Flashing Red and White

- Mayor Brown directed members of the Buffalo Landmark Illumination Team to light their structures and buildings, including Buffalo City Hall, in flashing Red and White tonight in honor of local health care workers and first responders on the front lines of this health emergency

You can help Buffalo veterans while enjoying some great music today!

- Buffalo Blues is hosting a concert featuring local musicians to benefit local veterans and military families in need. It is from 3:30 to 4:30 pm today, for more information visit the Buffalo Blues Live Stream Series Facebook page.

Get your Easter Order in!

City residents and visitors can order and collect their pre-paid Easter goods at the Broadway Market Curbside Pick-up, beginning Monday, April 6th through Saturday, April 11th

Please know that slots are limited. Buyers will need to pre-pay all orders and reserve a pick-up timeslot. Note: Buyers can order from multiple vendors but will be assigned only one pick-up timeslot

For a list of participating vendors, go to www.buffalony.gov

St. Mary's School for the Deaf is holding a food giveaway tomorrow to help anyone in need.

- The giveaway includes fresh and canned foods. The event, located at 2253 Main Street, runs from 9am to noon. Go to www.buffalony.gov for a list of food pantries

In closing, Mayor Brown stated, "I thank you for your cooperation during this emergency. I know this is a difficult time for everybody, but I know we will make it through successfully, together. You will continue to have each other's' backs as we always do here in the City of Good Neighbors. We are Buffalo Strong. God bless you and god bless the City of Buffalo."

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