

To our South St. Paul Community,

I want to talk to you about the City's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and actions we will be taking. These are challenging times, but we must remember that we are in it together. Our community is a strong and caring one, and we are confident that we will get through this.

To help mitigate the spread of the virus and protect our citizens and employees, the following steps are being taken by the City starting immediately:

- Our management team has been meeting to prepare and implement plans to ensure that essential city services remain operational.
- Our Police, Fire and Public Works departments are essential services and they will continue to provide services to the community, while taking precautions to protect themselves.
- Our public buildings (City Hall, Library, Central Square Community Center, Doug Woog Arena, Fleming Field Airport, and Public Works facility) will be closed to the public through March 31, 2020. This will be both for social distancing and the demands for cleaning procedures. Some individuals will be allowed entry for essential deliveries (i.e., mail, service parts). We will re-evaluate conditions at that time to determine if further closures are needed.
- City Council meetings will be conducted via Web X, telephone or other electronic means. Our Advisory Board and Commission meetings will be held on an as needed basis via telephone or other electronic means.
- Scheduled community events, programs, and/or meetings will be postponed or cancelled.
- A utility payment secure box is available at the back (alley side) entrance of City Hall for self-service payment drop-offs. You can also utilize this payment box for other city business payments.
- Please reschedule building/permit inspections if anyone in your household is feeling ill or under a quarantine. The City may also temporarily close any new permit requests.
- Stay up-to-date on current City news by visiting the City's website at www.southstpaul.org or watch the City's Facebook page "City of South St. Paul, Minnesota" for updates
- If you need to speak with a City representative, please call 651-554-3200

How can you help?

- Take all appropriate measures to prevent the spread of this virus. We know them all by now, but they bear repeating:
 1. Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue and then throw the tissue in the trash
 2. Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth
 3. Avoid close contact with people who are sick, and stay home if you are sick
 4. Practice *social distancing* when you need to be out
- Stay up-to-date on information concerning the COVID-19 pandemic by visiting: www.cdc.gov and www.health.state.mn.us

Remember, we are in this together and will get through it together.

On behalf of the City Council and your City Staff,
Mayor James P. Francis