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CITY of
DURANGO
SAN JUAN BASIN
public health

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, MARCH 18, 2020

NEWS RELEASE

Service Adjustment Updates Related to COVID-19 Mitigation Effort

Durango, CO: The Durango City Council met yesterday in an open virtual meeting and adopted Resolution 2020-07, which ratified the Interim City Manager's Declaration of a Local Emergency (Declaration 2020-01, issued on March 16, 2020) and consented to continue the Declaration for so long as is necessary as determined by the Interim City Manager or the City Council in order to mitigate the presence of Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Durango as an imminent threat to public health of Durango residents and visitors.

The City of Durango will continue to make service adjustments while coordinating with [San Juan Basin Public Health](#) and La Plata County to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19. These efforts reduce close contact between people to reduce community transmission of the virus. All essential functions will continue to operate as usual including Administration, Public Safety (Police and 911-Dispatching), Water and Wastewater, Airport, and Trash and Recycling pickup. **Effective March 18 through May 10, 2020, the following City services will be modified:**

Durango Transit Service

Durango Transit will be **limiting each bus and trolley to a maximum of 10 passengers** in order to limit exposure between passengers and transit operators. Citizens are asked to limit Transit rides to only essential trips, such as medical needs, groceries, or work. Anyone exhibiting illness symptoms will not be allowed to ride the Transit system.

Durango Transit is taking additional measures to keep vehicles clean and passengers healthy. All Durango Transit buses are being cleaned every day with disinfectant. Staff are wiping down seats, steering wheels, handles, buckles, stop request pull cords, and other high-touch areas. For more information about Durango Transit, please call (970) 375-4901 or visit DurangoGov.org/Transit

Central Business District Parking

During the statewide closure of seated dining at restaurants, and to encourage supporting local businesses that offer curbside food pickup, the City of Durango Parking Division has placed **free parking signs at some meters in the Central Business District**. In addition, the commercial loading zones can be used for pickup as well, limited to 10 minutes. We ask for the community

to use these free parking spaces on the honor system, and only for this intended purpose. For additional parking information, please call (970) 375-4960 or visit DurangoGov.org/Parking.

Community Development

Physical visits to the Community Development office at River City Hall (1235 Camino del Rio) have been suspended until further notice. We will continue accepting and processing applications for permits and development approvals, but all application submittals must be done digitally. If you have a project or permit currently in process, you may continue corresponding with the staff member you've been working with via email.

If you have a new inquiry, please use the following resources:

- For general Community Development inquiries contact Annie Chacon at annie.chacon@durangogov.org or (970) 375-4850
- For building permit inquiries, including applications and inspections contact Jackie Cox at jaclyn.cox@durangogov.org or (970) 375-4852
- For Engineering inquiries, including excavation permits and inspections of public improvements/utilities contact Heather Wachter at heather.wachter@durangogov.org or (970) 375-4861
- For Planning and Development review inquiries contact Scott Shine at plansrvcs@durangogov.org or (970) 375-4858
- For Code Enforcement inquiries contact Steve Barkley at steve.barkley@durangogov.org or (970) 375-4931

Applications shall be submitted to staff digitally. If paper plans are required by the City, or to drop off mylars, etc., there is a drop-box located at the front door of River City Hall. Please call the main line at (970) 375-4850 before dropping off anything in that box. Payments for applications and permits will be accepted over the main line. Physical payments will also be accepted at City drop-box locations conveniently located at City Hall (949 E. 2nd Avenue), the Post Office (222 W. 8th Street), and Durango Public Library (1900 E. 3rd Avenue), and should be addressed to the Community Development Department and include a detailed description of the project. All approved permits will be emailed to customers.

All building and engineering inspections are continuing as usual by appointment only. For a building inspection, please call (970) 375-4852. For an engineering inspection, please call (970) 375-4861.

The City appreciates your understanding as we implement mitigation efforts to increase social distancing due to the Coronavirus in accordance with best practices recommended by San Juan Basin Public Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Everyone plays a role in staying healthy and protecting others. Follow San Juan Basin Public Health's recommendations about proper hygiene and preventing the spread of illnesses, including COVID-19:

- Don't shake hands or hug. Instead, bump fists or elbows.
- Increase distance between people to six feet to help reduce spread.
- Consider whether you want to take a trip or attend public gatherings.

- Follow [CDC guidelines on travel](#).
- If there is ongoing spread in your community, consider reducing the number of large group gatherings or activities. (As of 3/13/20, Governor Polis has ordered cancellation of any events of over 250 people in the state of Colorado.)
- Discourage children and teens from gathering in other public places if school is closed.
- If you are sick, stay home or get treatment from your doctor (call ahead), and stay away from others.
- If you are well, stay away from others who are sick.

If you think you have symptoms of [COVID-19](#) or believe you have been exposed, SJBPH is recommending self-quarantine or isolation, to reduce spread of the virus. If your symptoms are severe, call your doctor, or call ahead to Mercy Hospital's Emergency Department at (970) 247-4311, to let them know you are coming.

Other helpful resources include the [Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment](#), the [CDC](#) and the COHelp line at 877-462-2911.

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