

Mayor Domenic J. Sarno's City of Springfield COVID-19 Situational Update

Tuesday, April 21, 2020

Mayor Domenic J. Sarno, in the best interests of our residents and business community, continues his daily morning meetings with his cabinet heads as they work 24/7 to facilitate and coordinate with all of our local, state, federal, and public and private partners in response to the COVID-19 situation.

Below are the most recent updates as reported from each City Departments.

Mayor's Office

- Continues to coordinate the city's efforts with all stakeholders (state, federal, hospital and medical facilities, public and private partners, etc.) in response of services and relief and recovery measures.
- Continuing to monitor the COVID-19 situation closely so that we do not reopen and ease our prudent measures too early, which could potentially expose our residents to a second wave of the virus.
- Mayor spoke with COVID-19 state Director Tom Mangan last evening on federal shortage of needed testing kits. Will continue to lobby with Governor Baker, Lt. Governor Polito and Congressman Neal for feds to get us proper testing capacities ASAP
- Continued to stress the need for additional target testing before any talk about reopening can be considered, in order to build strong public, business, consumer, and hospital confidences to identify, isolate, contact trace, mitigate and heal potential hot spot areas.
- Hosted a conference call with Congressman Richard E. Neal, Chairman of U.S. House Ways and Means, during daily morning cabinet heads meeting to discuss the ongoing COVID-19 (Coronavirus) situation. Mayor Sarno very appreciative of Congressman Neal's continued efforts and regular contacts for our city's needs
 - Provided an update on the Federal Governments response
 - C.A.R.E.S. Act update
 - Discussed specific items and funding amounts to provide relief and recovery for residents, businesses, municipalities and states.
 - Provided updates on Phase 3 and Phase 4 of the Coronavirus Relief Bill(s)
 - Relief funding for businesses – Small Business Administration
 - Relief funding for hospitals – Medicare and Medicaid
 - Relief funding for municipalities and states
 - Relief funding for infrastructure
 - Mayor stressed the need for federal agencies to provide the state and the city with additional testing, including trying to secure an Abbott machine to work with Baystate and Mercy Hospitals and other regional healthcare

institutions and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts on regional target testing of our hot spot areas through our community centers which are strategically located in these areas

- Heartfelt thank you to our Springfield Community for stepping up with PPE donations, allowing the city to outfit our dedicated police, fire and frontline workers with the appropriate safety equipment

Health

- Announced 35 new cases of Springfield residents testing positive for COVID-19 (Coronavirus)
- Total positive cases now at 832
 - City continues to see a surge of cases
- Continues to monitor potential COVID-19 cluster locations across the city, especially at our long-term care facilities.
 - National Guard Med Tech through state Department of Public Health and City Health Department continue to provide assistance with our long-term care facilities with testing aspects
 - Partnering with Ron Willoughby and the Springfield Rescue Mission to begin testing as soon as next week
- School nurses continue to help with contact tracing
- Announced the continued need and importance of adhering to all public health, personal hygiene and social distancing procedures. Still very important, even though hospital numbers are stable, public health is population based and our numbers are still rising
- Homeless tenting full facilities and operations up and running
 - Count currently at 10 individuals at facility, but potentially will rise as testing results come back and more testing takes place
- City of Springfield COVID-19 hotline - (413) 750-3250 – staffed 7 days a week. 8:30am – 7pm.

Elder Affairs

- Continues to do wellness checks on a daily basis with people in senior housing complexes and associated with senior centers.
- Continues to deliver meals to seniors in need, including over the weekend.

DPW

- Trash and recycling continue to be picked up
- Streets and Engineering continue to provide services
- Yard waste collection continues but is running behind schedule
- Weekly construction update for the week of April 20, 2020
 - Utility work – Magaziner Street
 - Milling work – Mill Street
- Installing and enforcing “No Parking” signs around city golf courses to further deter active recreational activities and stress the importance of social distancing

Eco Dev

- Continues to review and secure additional funding for restaurant and small business assistance grants.
- Continuing to review applications for second round of the restaurant and small business “Prime the Pump” grant program - \$500,000 funding available – over 110 applications submitted
 - Announcement to be made later this week

- Continues to review and identify Federal stimulus funding to focus on local efforts for relief and recovery for our residents and small businesses
- Continues to work with HUD for spending of CDBG funds through the C.A.R.E. Act
- Funding for the first round of Prime the Pump grant program is being distributed and contracted. Checks started going out last week.

Finance

- Provided an update to Mayor and cabinet heads on the projected revenue shortfalls by the federal, state and municipal levels. Reviewed the expected budgetary constraints for the city's FY 20 and FY21 budgets
- Continues to explore all public and private means in which to secure additional PPE's for our Police and Fire Departments and our first responders and frontline personnel
- Continues to monitor all federal and state relief and recovery funding and reimbursement mechanisms
- Implementing strategic spending measures to identify areas of need, relief and recovery while also trying to maintain city services for residents and business community.
- Continues to monitor lost revenue – city and state
 - \$2.3 million in lost revenue – city
 - \$1.34 million in deficit spending - city
- Continues proactive meetings with Josh Norman of GP Strategies to track, identify, and implement relief and recovery reimbursement aspects.

Parks and Facilities

- Consulting with Bob Kirchherr, CSP, Principal and Indoor Air Quality and Industrial Hygienist for O'Reilly, Talbot & Okun Engineering Associate to review the city's air systems at all municipal buildings – police and fire HQ, City Hall, Schools, etc.
- Continuing the deep cleaning of all city buildings and facilities
- Continuing to monitor our parks on social distancing aspects
- Installing signs at city parks recommending residents wear face coverings
- Reviewing potential alternate site locations for homeless triage facility and population surge facility for short-term and long-term aspects pending the duration of pandemic if needed
- Reviewing all protocols and procedures for short and long term reopening aspects

Public Safety

Fire

- Down 7
- Announced Food Drive to help residents in need. Non-perishable food items can be donated and dropped off at city fire stations. Residents are encouraged to call ahead or ring the doorbell and to leave items at the door for social distancing aspects.
- Continues with proactive sanitizing and disinfecting measures
- Utilizing thermal infrared thermometers to proactively protect and preserve our workforce

Police

- Down 10
- Continue to provide anti-crime activity
 - Increase traffic enforcement
 - Increase attention on breaking and entering crimes – residential and commercial properties

- Increase in domestic and restraining orders
- Increase in mental health related calls for service – more Behavioral Health Network (BHN) staff added
- The National Guard and State Police continue to work alongside SPD
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Schools

- To date, Sodexo has served 291,297 meals to Springfield Public Schools students since the program began on March 12th (meals included breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks)
 - 17 school sites
- Continues to distribute laptops to students for remote learning – over 10,000 are currently being given out, including to our homeless students, on top of the 7,000 our students had already been using prior to pandemic
- Governor Baker and the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education announced today the decision that all schools will remain closed for the remainder of the academic year

Law/HR/Labor

- Continues to assist and advise all departments on pertinent city business
- Continues to review and monitor all federal and state legislation
- Utilizing thermal infrared thermometers to proactively protect and preserve our workforce

Misc.

Food Bank

- Continue Oasis Food Bank operations on Friday's 10-2pm through Mr. John Foley, Mayor's Office, DPW, SPD and Food Bank of Western Mass – serving over 1,700 families with food distribution at Central High School and Smead Arena parking lot