

**Date:** 03/24/2020

## **CITY ANNOUNCES ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL CHANGES AS A RESULT OF EXECUTIVE ORDER #2020-21 (STAY HOME/STAY SAFE)**

**(MONROE, MI)** - In accordance with Governor Whitman's Executive Order #2020-21 (Stay Home/Stay Safe) issued on Monday, March 23, to combat the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the City announces the following additional procedural changes:

- All City of Monroe facilities will remain closed through April 13, 2020.
- Essential critical and emergency City operations are not affected by the Governor's Order and will remain in operation. This includes Police, Fire, Water Plant, and Wastewater Plant operations.
- The May Election is scheduled to proceed with the Monroe Public School ballot question. The Clerk-Treasurer's Office is working with the Secretary of State and Bureau of Elections on further details. Please continue to return absentee applications by mail or the City Hall Drop Box located in the parking lot adjacent to building.
- The demolition of the former La-Z-Boy headquarters and construction of Labor Park improvements have been postponed. Neither of these construction projects meet the definition of "essential critical infrastructure" and therefore cannot proceed for the duration of the Governor's order.
- The City of Monroe Building Department will limit its permit and inspections to only emergency related items. Effective Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup> the Building Department will operate accordingly:
  - New building permits applications will not be accepted until April 13, 2020.
  - Contractors with open permits requiring inspections shall schedule an appointment by contacting the Building Department by phone at 734-265-8910 or by e-mail at [kimberly.voyles@monroemi.gov](mailto:kimberly.voyles@monroemi.gov). Please provide at least 48 hours advanced notice for inspection.
  - Trade permit applications for emergency repairs will be accepted on-line with payment on-line as well. This would include furnace replacements, plumbing, electrical, roof replacements, and similar emergency related repairs.
  - All trade permit applications shall be submitted by licensed contractors

The public should continue to regularly monitor the City's website ([www.monroemi.gov](http://www.monroemi.gov)), Facebook page, [MyMonroe app](#) push notifications, the City's government channel: channel (18/Comcast or 190/Charter), and local media for updates.

City administration will continue to evaluate how to reallocate staff and resources in the most efficient way possible and monitor the situation as it may pertain to the operations of public facilities. Any changes in addition to those released in recent days will be announced via the communication methods highlighted above.

As a reminder, everyone should be taking the following precautions to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus, including, but not limited to:

- If you think you have been exposed to COVID-19, call your health care provider. If you do not have a health care provider, call the nearest hospital.
- Wash your hands often with soap and warm water for 20 seconds. If not available, use hand sanitizer.
- Regularly clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or upper sleeve when coughing or sneezing.
- Avoid contact with people who are sick.
- If you are sick, stay home, and avoid contact with others.
- Replace handshakes with elbow bumps.
- Stay at least 6 feet away from others when in a public setting (social distancing).

Information around this outbreak is changing rapidly. The latest information is available at [Michigan.gov/Coronavirus](http://Michigan.gov/Coronavirus) and [CDC.gov/Coronavirus](http://CDC.gov/Coronavirus).

The [Monroe County Health Department](#) has set up a COVID-19 hotline. Please call 734.243.8600, Monday through Friday, 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM, if you have questions or concerns regarding coronavirus.

Incorporated in 1817, the City of Monroe is a community that has a shared vision that seeks to balance the opportunities of economic development with the stewardship that is required for historic preservation. With a population of 20,733, Monroe is located about 17-miles north of Toledo, Ohio and about 35-miles south of Detroit. The City of Monroe is Michigan's third oldest community, and is also the county seat of Monroe County.

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