

## CITY OF PLATTSBURGH UPDATES ON COVID-19 RESPONSE

The City of Plattsburgh remains in a State of Emergency issued by Mayor Colin Read effective Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup> at 8am. Here are some valuable updates:

Effective immediately, the City Department Heads will be reducing the overall work force by 50% to limit as much personal contact, as possible, as instructed by Governor Cuomo. During this time, services including police, fire, water and sewer operation and waste collection will continue. However, the public is asked to remain patient with some services including brush collection, pot hole filling, and some other public works operations during this time.

An emergency task force including members from administrative, safety, infrastructure and planning units has been created by the Mayor in order to prepare for all challenges moving forward. This task force is working directly from City Hall in order to streamline solutions in real time.

Some City Hall in-person visits to departments have changed. The City Clerk's office will only be accepting appointments effective Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup> at 8am. Please reach out to 518-563-7702 or email at [parrotteS@cityofplattsburgh-ny.gov](mailto:parrotteS@cityofplattsburgh-ny.gov) to schedule appointments.

The Finance Department is urging the public to use online bill pay on the City Website – [www.cityofplattsburgh.com](http://www.cityofplattsburgh.com). Please follow the "HOW DO I" button on the top of the site to utilize this function. To continue to pay in person, please use the social distancing method of 6+ feet away from the next person in line. Persons that have symptoms of Covid-19 or other health symptoms are asked to remain home and contact their local physician.

Regular council and committee meetings are expected to continue with remote access capability and public input.

Many City facilities that utilized mass gatherings remain closed including the City Recreation Center, Crete Civic Center, and Public Library. The Governor's orders also mandated all bars to close and restaurants to use take-out and delivery services.

The emergency task force established by Mayor Read will evaluate the Covid-19 situation locally and, with regard to any executive orders issued by the Governor's office. Please check the City's website frequently for updates and changes to policy.

The Mayor has issued the following statement for local businesses and tax payers:

"The burden the state's response to the Coronavirus pandemic has taken a terrible toll on our city's small businesses. We worry about the viability of our businesses and the important role they play in the community and your neighborhoods. I need your ideas. I am going to ask the Common Council to figure

out ways to streamline regulations to make your lives less burdensome at this critical time. If you have any ideas, please contact me and I will do my best to bring those ideas to the Common Council.

Some ideas that come to mind is the increased availability of free parking, relaxation of rules that make it difficult for shop owners to display your wares in your window or on the sidewalks, or greater use of short term convenience parking near your establishments. Please let me know if you have any additional ideas. Now is the time for government to get out of the way as you try to preserve your business and neighborhoods.

Meanwhile, I am continuing to work to lower taxes so more people can get by and can have more money in their pockets for the necessities of life. “