



Eugene City Manager's Office

Message From Your City Manager

Friday, May 15, 2020

Dear Eugene,

The sun is out and we made it to our [first phase of reopening](#). I know our community has mixed feelings about this as we balance our physical and financial fears. My hope is we stick together and do this right. For me, that means maintaining distance, staying vigilant about washing hands, sanitizing surfaces, having a cloth face mask and wearing it when I can't maintain consistent distancing of 6 feet. It's really that simple. When I see people out in public with face masks on, we often nod heads at each other with an "I've got your back" look. It's been a fun way to feel connected and a sure sign we have a shared purpose of keeping each other safe and healthy.

You can find the details of what Phase One means and [what types of businesses might be opening on our Business Support page](#). I spoke with a restaurant owner yesterday and know they are ready for us AND are requiring face masks until you are seated at your table. We'll all need to be prepared for things to be a little different as we wander back out into the world, including being patient as we figure out this new phase together. If you're a business owner, the Eugene Chamber of Commerce website has a really awesome [Back to Business Guide](#) they developed in partnership with the Springfield Chamber. Additionally, the City's reopening team is looking at ways the City can support local businesses. Local businesses with input or questions can email the team directly at bizhelp@eugene-or.gov.

The City is still in emergency operations mode and our emergency operations center has now been open and active for 63 days. I'm pretty certain this is an all-time record as most emergency events in our community have lasted days or weeks, not months. Here are a few things we are working on in that capacity.

- Establishing our ["reopening" team](#) and sharing resources on [Reopening Oregon](#)
- Continuing to [support people experiencing homelessness](#) to reduce the spread of COVID-19
- Planning for [Long-term Community Recovery](#)

I've mentioned the FY21 budget in my last two letters, and I want you to know that this coming Wednesday, May 20, the Budget Committee will open up to public comment and deliberation at 5:30 p.m. [Information about how to participate](#) is on the website, and you can see the document with [amendments to the proposed FY21 budget](#).

These community letters emerged at the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis as a way of connecting with you as we work through all of our physical, financial and emotional challenges. While it was never intended to be a newsletter, I've tried to share the information I thought you'd most like or need to know. As we enter Phase One and continue to recover and rebound from the public health emergency, I'm wondering what you might want to hear about each week...if anything at all? If you're reading this on social media, you can leave your thoughts about that in the comments, otherwise, feel free to email me at smedary@eugene-or.gov.

At yesterday's press conference with the governor, Oregon Health Authority Director Patrick Allen said, "Reopening is a team sport. It's not going to work if some people follow the rules and other people don't... We need everybody on the team to do their part." Stay strong, Team EUG, we're getting through this together.

In community spirit,

Sarah Medary
City Manager Pro Tem

Previous Letters

- [Community Letter from May 8, 2020](#)
- [Community Letter from May 1, 2020](#)
- [Community Letter from April 24, 2020](#)
- [Community Letter from April 17, 2020](#)
- [Community Letter from April 10, 2020](#)
- [Community Letter from April 3, 2020](#)
- [Community Letter from March 27, 2020](#)
- [Community Letter from March 20, 2020](#)
- [Community Letter from March 13, 2020](#)
- [Community Letter from March 7, 2020](#)