



Eugene City Manager's Office

Message From Your City Manager

Friday, May 22, 2020

Dear Eugene,

For many, Memorial Day weekend marks the beginning of summer and gatherings with family and friends. It feels different this year as traditional spring and summer activities have transformed during the COVID-19 emergency. Regardless, I hope you each get a chance to honor those that gave their lives in service to our country. One easy way to do this from home is to participate in the National Moment of Remembrance at 3 p.m. on Monday. Wherever you are, you can observe a minute of silence to remember the Americans who have served our country.

The first week of Phase 1 is behind us and businesses and individuals are adapting to the new guidelines and rules. I know businesses are working hard to navigate all of the things they have to do to safely open and continue their services. We're working through some of those same issues as we start to reintegrate the City's workforce as safely as possible. It's not easy. As you all know, there is a lot of conflicting information out there. Face coverings are a great example of that. They aren't like oxygen masks that will just fall down from the ceiling when you are supposed to use them, you have to use your own good judgement based on individual situations. For me, it's when I can't maintain 6 feet of physical distance or I'm entering a space where that seems unlikely.

In City business, a few things happened this week you might be interested in:

- The Budget Committee held their second of three meetings to [discuss the FY21 amended budget](#). They are working well given the limitations of meeting online and I believe they'll finish their work by next Wednesday evening. I'll share the highlights of that next week.
- The City Council [approved a supplemental budget](#) item to fund the construction of the first phase of infrastructure at the downtown riverfront. If you're following this, the successful bid was approximately \$900,000 below our Engineer's estimate. Between the good price and the immediate need for jobs, this is a good time to move forward with that work, which includes a portion of the railroad quiet zone.
- The City Council has been considering how to balance their support for short term rental owner/operators with the livability concerns of neighborhoods. Given the current situation and travel and tourism being severely impacted, they directed me to bring back an ordinance implementing a registration/license system for short term rentals rather than the larger set of regulations they were considering in December. They also asked staff to bring back more information about how existing rules/codes could be adjusted to handle these rentals outside of a new regulatory framework. [Watch that work session here](#).
- On a fun note, our staff are continuing to find creative ways to provide service to our community during this time you are stuck at home. This weekend you might see the [Sunday Slow Roll](#). Cultural Services brings the FUN to you, rolling through Eugene neighborhoods and sharing uplifting music outside your doorstep. This weekend they'll be in the West Eugene and Chambers to Bailey Hill neighborhoods.

This week I talked to many community members who are either totally done and exasperated by the stay home order OR are loving being home and the new pace of their lives. I'm more in the first camp and ready to connect with my friends and co-workers in a non-virtual way. If you're out and about this weekend, remember that the most important things you can do to stay healthy are keep physical distance and wash your hands frequently.

In community spirit,

Sarah Medary
City Manager Pro Tem

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