



City of Edmonds Media Release

Economic Development ~ 121 5th Ave N, Edmonds, WA 98020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 17, 2020

To: Media

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EDMONDS MAYOR NELSON UPDATES RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES ON COVID-19 INFORMATION: MARCH 17, 2020

Measures and Proposals to Help Local Business and Reduce the Spread of COVID-19

(Edmonds, WA) - Mayor Mike Nelson today issued a series of decisions to support local residents and business owners, a tough decision regarding local parks, and a reminder to use 911 for life-safety emergencies only. "We are doing our very best to manage our community's needs for support and safety during these fast-changing times," said Mayor Nelson.

BUSINESS SUPPORT

With the Governor's statewide shutdown of bars, restaurants, entertainment and other nonessential retail establishments, business owners, employees and residents are already feeling the financial impact.

"Today, I am instituting and proposing measures intended to lessen the blow of these impacts," said Mayor Nelson. "These local measures are immediate, tangible, and will be in addition to the increasing package of assistance measures being offered by state and federal agencies."

As of today, March 17, 2020:

- Through the end of April the Finance Department will forego shut-offs for those Edmonds water and sewer customers struggling to pay their bills. The City will also waive corresponding late fees. Please contact the City to arrange a payment plan by calling 425-771-0241.

- The City Clerk’s Office will extend business license renewal deadlines for at least two months.

The measures related to utility payments and business-license renewals are in effect immediately.

“Lastly, I am proposing to City Council a measure intended to directly assist the business community.”

- The City intends to revise the City’s parking regulations to allow for designation of selected existing on-street parking spaces as 15-minute ‘grab & go’ to accommodate quick pick-up of orders from local restaurants and cafés.

The Mayor added, “I will be exploring with staff and our county and state partners other potential measures to provide assistance to our local business owners, laid-off workers and residents.”

LOCAL PARKS

While leaving parks open, the Mayor has also made the tough decision to close park playground equipment. Restrooms remain open as well, which are cleaned daily. We encourage families to bring personal water bottles to the park.

“We recognize families are [using our parks](#) more than usual and we want to encourage that. At the same time, we know that when lots of children touch the same equipment, it leaves us all more vulnerable,” said Mayor Nelson.

Several Washington cities have made the same decision while others will be making these decisions today.

Public Safety dispatch (Sno-911) reports an uptick in non-emergency calls. We remind residents that 911 is for life-safety emergencies only. The non-emergency number is 425-407-3999.

For continuing information about the status of local COVID-19-related developments, visit the City’s website at: <http://www.edmondswa.gov/coronavirus.html>

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