

## NEWS RELEASE

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**March 18, 2020**

### **City Officials Take Heightened Steps to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19 Virus; Calls Go Out to the Public on Accelerated Measures for Protection**

**DOUGLAS, ARIZ. – March 18, 2020.** City Officials in Douglas, Arizona, are acting once again with a heightened sense of urgency to help prevent exposure and spread of the COVID-19 virus.

Following the Emergency Proclamation of March 16<sup>th</sup> which conformed with the federal guidelines limiting public attendance to 10 or fewer individuals, as of today, the City is instituting ***full prohibition of public attendance at any meetings or business that must be publicly conducted***. Alternative means of public communication and participation will be developed and communicated before such events. This includes ***formal meetings of the City Council, City commissions***, use or admittance to the ***Visitor Center*** for any trainings or events as well as the ***walk-in traffic to the Visitor Center***. Transit service will change to a modified schedule for **essential trips only changing the fixed Douglas Rides routes to a Dial a Ride system** throughout the **Douglas Public Transit System**. This change will become ***effective Monday, March 23 until further notice***. Riders may call the office at 520-417-7400 for a call for pick up.

Closures have already occurred at the ***Douglas Public Library, Aquatic Center and City parks and restrooms***. As of today, ***the Discover Douglas tours offered the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays reserved through the Visitors Center will be suspended through April*** and then re-evaluated. The City strongly encourages non-essential personnel and travelers of all ages to stay at home and reschedule their visits to a later date. limit

transportation to essential trips only and change the fixed routes to dial a ride

"The time is here, this day, right now, for each and every citizen, business, non-profit and government to stop circulating, shelter in place where practical and not open opportunities of exposure and spread of this unpredictable virus," emphasized Mayor Robert Uribe. "Our team has heard directly from the medical community, from an experienced doctor who has been through other pandemics of 2009 and 2003, who is telling his own patients to stay home. His warning is that if we don't take this seriously and don't quit going to restaurants, public spaces and don't practice full social distancing and sanitizing protocols with every interaction with other people, it will be too late when this is upon us."

Private businesses and companies are asked to please begin take-out or delivery service only. The public is asked to go for walks in family groups only and not convening in gatherings where exposure is more likely. Please remember that we are a community that watches out for each other and hoarding that prevents those most in need from accessing groceries and supplies will only work against the spread of this disease. Be mindful of our elderly and those with underlying respiratory and other conditions which this is affecting the most.

If you have questions or need from the City, please contact City Hall at 520-417-7303.

**POLICE & FIRE: Police and Fire Services will operate as usual.**

**Please call 911 should you encounter an emergency.**

**For non-emergency situations, please call 520-417-7550.**

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