

## IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM CITY COUNCIL:

“On March 13, 2020, the President of the United States issued a national emergency declaration on the basis of the outbreak of COVID-19 (coronavirus). The Governor of our State issued a similar “State of Emergency” on March 16, 2020. This was followed by a Mayoral Proclamation similarly declaring the existence of a civil/local emergency in our community on March 18, 2020. Federal, State, and Local Authorities have continually impressed upon the public the importance of heeding the guidance of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), State Department of Health, and the President concerning steps necessary to stop the spread of this outbreak, which has now turned into a pandemic.

Efforts by many of our community members to adhere to these sanitation and social distancing guidelines are appreciated. The “Good to Go” model that involves purchasing meals from local restaurants and food establishments by way of drive-thru or delivery service has been intended to follow this guidance. Unfortunately, there are some in our community who have irresponsibly ignored these recommendations. People continuing to congregate in the public and at places of business, have only served to penalize those observing the new protocols - and worse, have created an environment where this invasive contagion can easily spread. The result is having the additional effect of forcing authorities to take drastic measures to severely curtail opportunities for public contact. This is not a choice we want to make, but is being forced upon us out of concern for the health and safety of our community.

We cannot overstate the seriousness of this situation. Based upon trends around the country, matters are likely to get worse, before they get better. If we do not act NOW, it will become grave. All one has to do is look at the experience of Italy. COVID-19 is an equal opportunity infector. It’s not just Seniors – everyone is susceptible. More troubling, given the rapid spread of the disease – everybody is a potential carrier – symptomatic, or not.

These are unprecedented times, and require unprecedented action. This decision may be too late to avert an overall quarantine, but at this point, we believe it is best to implement new measures, in an attempt to stem further spread of the virus.

The City of Butler is putting the following measures in place:

- Closing all City properties (parks play areas, playgrounds)
- Closing of City buildings to the public, but continuing the provision of City services via telephonic and/or digital means.

The attached proclamation outlines the new regulations in effect in the City of Butler, effective at 11:59 pm, March 24, 2020.”