I. Review and Discuss the Declaration of Disaster Issued by the Mayor of Richardson on March 18, 2020.
COVID-19 STATUS REPORT

City Council Briefing: March 23, 2020
PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- Background Information
- Richardson Declaration of Disaster
- Ordinance Overview
- City Programming & Service Impacts
- Business Support
- COVID Support & Testing
- Future Considerations
INTRODUCTION

- COVID-19 is a new illness that can affect your lungs and airways
- It's caused by a virus called coronavirus
- Symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are a cough, a high temperature and shortness of breath
- Simple measures like washing your hands often with soap and water can help stop viruses like coronavirus (COVID-19) spreading
BACKGROUND

- January 30, 2020: The World Health Organization (WHO) declared the outbreak of COVID-19 as Public Health Emergency of International Concern
- March 5, 2020: The WHO urged proactive preparedness and activation of emergency plans to aggressively change the trajectory of this epidemic
- March 11, 2020: The WHO declared COVID-19 a worldwide pandemic
- March 12, 2020: Dallas County issued a Declaration of Public Health Emergency for COVID-19
  - Order amended on March 16, 18, 20, 21, 22
- March 13, 2020: The Governor of Texas declared a State of Disaster for COVID-19
- March 13, 2020: The President of the United States declared a National Emergency for COVID-19
March 15, 2020: The Centers for Disease Control recommended no gatherings with 50 people or more take place for the next 8 weeks throughout the United States

March 16, 2020: Collin County declared a State of Disaster for COVID-19

March 16, 2020: The White House recommended avoiding social gatherings of more than 10 people

March 18, 2020: Mayor Voelker declared a State of Disaster for the City of Richardson for COVID-19

March 19, 2020: Commissioner John Hellerstedt declared a Public Health Disaster in the State of Texas for COVID-19

March 19, 2020: Governor Abbot issued Executive Order GA 08

March 22, 2020: Governor Abbot issued Executive Order GA 09
COVID-19 CASES

- Worldwide: 358,803
- United States: 15,219
- Texas: 566
- Dallas County: 155
- Collin County: 38
- Richardson: 4 (1 death)

As of March 12, 2020 at 12:00 pm
Community gatherings of 50 persons or more anywhere within the City of Richardson are prohibited.

Recreational gatherings of 10 persons or more anywhere within the City of Richardson are prohibited.

Restaurants with or without drive-in or drive-through services and microbreweries, micro-distilleries, or wineries may only provide take out, delivery or drive-through services as allowed by law.

Bars, lounges, taverns, or arcades and private clubs shall close.

Organizations that serve high-risk populations are strongly urged to cancel gatherings.
The Texas Government Code requires the City Council to ratify the disaster declaration within 7 days.

- Declaration of Disaster Ordinance is on your agenda tonight for consideration.

- The Declaration will remain effective until deactivated by the City Council via future action.
ORDINANCE OVERVIEW

- All individuals are ordered to shelter at their place of residence.
- Residences include hotels, motels, shared rentals, and similar facilities.
- To the extent individuals are using shared or outdoor spaces, they must at all times as reasonably as possible comply with the social distancing guidelines.
- All persons may leave their residences only for Essential Activities, to provide or perform Essential Governmental Functions, or to operate Essential Businesses.
ORDINANCE OVERVIEW

- All businesses, except Essential Businesses, are required to cease all activities at facilities located within the City.

- All businesses may continue operations consisting exclusively of employees or contractors performing activities at their own residences.

- To the greatest extent possible, all Essential Businesses shall comply with social distancing guidelines while operating.

- All public or private gatherings of any number of people occurring outside a single household or living unit are prohibited, except as otherwise provided herein.

- Nothing in this Order prohibits the gathering of members of a household or living unit.
ORDINANCE OVERVIEW

- Restaurants with or without drive-in or drive-through services and microbreweries, micro-distilleries, or wineries may only provide take out, delivery, or drive-through services as allowed by law.

- Religious and worship services may only be provided by video and teleconference. Religious institutions must limit in-person staff to ten people or less when preparing for or conducting video or teleconference services; all individuals must follow the social distancing guidelines.

- All elective medical, surgical, and dental procedures are prohibited anywhere in the City. Hospitals, ambulatory surgery centers, dental offices, and other medical facilities are directed to identify procedures that are deemed "elective" by assessing which procedures can be postponed or cancelled based on patient risk considering the emergency need for redirection of resources to COVID-19 response.
ESSENTIAL ACTIVITIES DEFINED

- To engage in activities or perform tasks essential to their health and safety, or to the health and safety of their family or household members.
- To obtain necessary services or supplies for themselves and their family or household members, or to deliver those services or supplies to others.
- To engage in outdoor activity, provided the individuals comply with social distancing guidelines.
- To perform work providing essential products and services at an Essential Business or to otherwise carry out activities specifically permitted in this Ordinance.
- To care for a family member or pet in another household.
ESSENTIAL BUSINESS DEFINED

Essential Healthcare Operations

- Healthcare operations, including hospitals, clinics, dentists, pharmacies, pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, other healthcare facilities, healthcare suppliers, mental health providers, substance abuse service providers, blood banks, medical research, laboratory services, or any related and/or ancillary healthcare services.

- Home-based and residential-based care for seniors, adults, or children are also considered healthcare operations.

- Healthcare operations also includes veterinary care and all health and welfare services provided to animals.

- This exemption shall be viewed broadly to avoid any impacts to the delivery of healthcare.

- Healthcare operations do not include fitness and exercise gyms and similar facilities or elective medical, surgical, and dental procedures.
ESSENTIAL BUSINESS DEFINED

Essential Government Functions

- All services provided by local governments needed to ensure the continuing operation of the government agencies to provide for the health, safety and welfare of the public.
- All Essential Government functions shall be performed in compliance with social distancing guidelines.
ESSENTIAL BUSINESS DEFINED

Essential Critical Infrastructure

- Work necessary to the operations and maintenance of the 16 critical infrastructure sectors as identified by the National Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Agency (CISA).

- Essential Businesses providing essential infrastructure should implement screening precautions to protect employees and all activity shall be performed in compliance with social distancing guidelines.
ESSENTIAL BUSINESS DEFINED

Essential Retail

- Food service providers that sell food products and household staples.
- Food cultivation, including farming, fishing, and livestock.
- Businesses that ship or deliver groceries, food, goods or services directly to residences.
- Restaurants and other facilities that prepare and serve food, but only for delivery or carry out.
- Schools and other entities that typically provide free services to students or members of the public on a pick-up and take-away basis only.
- Laundromats, dry cleaners, and laundry service providers.
- Gas stations, auto-supply, auto and bicycle repair, hardware stores, and related facilities.
- Businesses that supply products needed for people to work from home.
ESSENTIAL BUSINESS DEFINED

Essential Services Necessary to Maintain Essential Operations of Residences or Other Essential Businesses

- Trash and recycling collection, processing and disposal, mail and shipping services, building cleaning and maintenance, warehouse/distribution and fulfillment, storage for essential businesses, funeral homes, crematoriums and cemeteries.

- Plumbers, electricians, exterminators, and other service providers who provide services that are necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation, and essential operations of residences and Essential Businesses.

- Professional services, such as legal or accounting services, when necessary to assist in compliance with legally mandated activities.

- Businesses that supply other Essential Businesses with the support of supplies needed to operate.
ESSENTIAL BUSINESS DEFINED

News Media
- Newspapers, television, radio, and other media services.

Childcare Services
- Childcare facilities providing services that enable employees exempted in this Order to work as permitted.
ORDINANCE OVERVIEW

- Grocery stores, supermarkets, warehouse stores, hospitals, and medical facilities are experiencing high levels of demand for a large number of products, requiring more deliveries from manufacturers and distribution centers to serve their customers.

- The City has a number of restrictions on delivery hours to stores to mitigate truck noise and traffic.

- Due to the need to deliver products as quickly and efficiently as possible during this critical timeframe, this Ordinance hereby suspends all delivery hour restrictions for transport to or from any entity involved in the selling or distribution of food products, medicine, or medical supplies in the City for the next 60 days.
ORDINANCE OVERVIEW

- Due to increased demand for bath or toilet tissue resulting from stock up buying and individuals who purchase for resale, a mandatory limit on toilet paper sales is instituted until the supply chain meets the demand or two weeks, whichever comes first.

- All sales of bath or toilet tissue occurring in the City are limited to the greater of:
  - Twelve rolls per purchase, or
  - One package per purchase
ORDINANCE OVERVIEW

- If someone in a household has tested positive for coronavirus, the household is ordered to isolate at home in accordance with CDC guidelines. Likewise, the members of the such household cannot go to work, school, or any other community function accept as allowed by the CDC guidelines.

- Nursing homes, retirement, and long-term care facilities are instructed by this order to prohibit non-essential visitors from accessing their facilities unless to provide critical assistance or for end-of-life visitation.
ORDINANCE OVERVIEW

- That any person, firm or corporation violating any of the provisions or terms of this Ordinance, the Disaster Declaration, any orders issued by the Mayor and/or the City Council pursuant to the Disaster Declaration, Chapter 7 of the Code of Ordinances or Chapter 418 of the Texas Government Code shall, upon conviction, be punished by a fine not to exceed the sum of $1,000 for each offense; and each and every day such violation shall continue shall be deemed to constitute a separate offense.
- Anyone wishing to report a possible violation should call 911.
- An officer will be dispatched to investigate the situation and educate the citizen(s) about the applicable regulations.
- If voluntary compliance is not achieved, an officer may cite the individuals.
ORDINANCE OVERVIEW

- That although Section 3.08 of the City Charter requires the City Council to conduct at least 2 meetings per month, it may be necessary during the existence of this Declaration to cancel City Council meetings because of unforeseen events or emergency conditions.

- As a result, the Mayor and/or City Manager are hereby authorized to cancel any City Council meeting during the duration of this Declaration without the necessity of further approval of the City Council.
That while this Declaration is in effect the City Council hereby authorizes the City Manager, or designee to waive the imposition and collection of any delinquency fee or penalty associated with any permit or approval required under any City Ordinance or Resolution but not including:

- Fees for water, wastewater, trash collection, property taxes, penalties and interest for property taxes;
- Fees or penalties required to be collected and/or imposed by the State of Texas or other governmental authority having jurisdiction to impose and/or collect such fee or penalty; and
- Fees or charges required to be imposed and/or collected by and/or paid to a third-party under a contract with the City.
CITY PROGRAMMING & SERVICE IMPACTS

- All Richardson Civic Center events are cancelled
- All Eisemann Center events are cancelled
  - Eisemann customer service / gallery areas remain open
- Animal Shelter is currently operating on a modified basis
  - Open normal business hours, but limiting operations that require public contact
  - Owners wishing to reclaim pets, drop off stray animals or adopt a pet must make an appointment. Appointments may be made via telephone or e-mail
- All volunteer and community service activity is suspended
CITY PROGRAMMING & SERVICE IMPACTS

- Richardson Public Library operating with modified service
  - Book drop-off
  - Call to reserve a book for curbside pickup
  - Limited to 10 items per vehicle
  - Some youth services to be offered through Facebook live feeds

- Richardson Municipal Court
  - All dockets, hearings, and trials starting March 19, 2020 through April 30, 2020 are postponed
CITY PROGRAMMING & SERVICE IMPACTS

- Parks and Recreation facilities are closed
  - All league play is cancelled
  - Anne Eisemann Inclusive Playground and Central Barkway closed
  - All facility rentals are cancelled and new pavilion rentals will not be permitted
  - Open areas (example: open park areas, trails, public art) but social distancing required

- All Senior Center programs are cancelled
  - Senior bus transit offering essential travel only

- Events Cancelled:
  - Richardson Realtors Workshop (April 2, 2020)
  - Richardson Neighborhood Leadership Workshop (April 21, 2020)
  - Trash Bash (April 11, 2020)
CITY BUSINESS SUPPORT

- Suspending water and solid waste cut offs due to non payment
- Waive City fees, penalties, interest, etc. to help business and residents impacted by COVID-19
  - Building / Sign (banner): Permit fees
  - Hotel / Motel Occupancy Taxes: Interest and Penalty on past due taxes
  - Water Customer Service: Late Fee, Reconnect Fee, Missed Appointment Fee, Returned Check Fee
  - Solid Waste Service: Late Fee
  - Community Services: Administrative fees and Interest
COVID-19 SUPPORT

- Small Business Administration Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program: Targeted, low-interest loans to small businesses and non-profits that have been impacted by the coronavirus. The program provides small businesses with working capital loans of up to $2 million that can provide vital economic support to help overcome the temporary loss of revenue they are experiencing.

- Unemployment Insurance: In an effort to provide financial relief for those who have been laid off due to COVID-19, $1 billion in emergency administrative grants have been provided to increase state capacity to process unemployment applications, make payments, and provide a federally funded extra week of benefits.

- Student Loans: Interest rates for borrowers with federally held student loans to 0% for the next 60 days.
COVID-19 SUPPORT

• Mortgages and Rent: All evictions and foreclosures on HUD-backed properties have been suspended and Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac have been directed to suspend all foreclosures and evictions for at least 60 days for homeowners with mortgages backed by the government-sponsored enterprises.

• School Meal Assistance: Several school districts are providing grab-and-go meals, or other food assistance services to students and families in need during the COVID-19 outbreak. The Texas Education Agency has created a tool for parents to help them to locate facilities serving meals.

• Meal Assistance for Seniors: $250 million for the Senior Nutrition program. If you are in need of meal delivery, please contact Meals on Wheels.
DALLAS TESTING SITES

- Two COVID-19 testing sites
  - 2500 Victory Plaza, Opened Saturday March 21, 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.
  - 9191 S Polk St., Opened Sunday, March 22, 8 a.m. – 8 p.m.

- Criteria for testing sites is as followed:
  - Shortness of breath
  - Cough
  - Must show a temperature of 99.6 or higher
FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS

- Financial Implications and Budget Development Considerations
- Future Public Meeting Management and Scheduling
- Future City Programming and Operational Impacts
- Future Special Event Decisions