



THE CITY OF ERIE

JOSEPH V. SCHEMBER, MAYOR

Media Release

For Immediate Distribution

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City of Erie Declares State of Emergency Disaster

ERIE, PA (March 24, 2020) – Effective today, March 24, 2020, Mayor Joe Schember signed a Declaration of Emergency Disaster based on the rapidly evolving challenges to protect public health and safety related to the spread of COVID-19.

This emergency declaration is important to obtain federal funding in response to COVID-19. FEMA assistance will be provided at a 75 percent federal cost share. Under this emergency declaration, FEMA is authorized to reimburse local governments for cost associated with emergency protective measures taken in response to the COVID-19.

Public Safety responses by Police, Fire, Emergency Medical Services, and Animal Control will continue as normal.

The Public Works department has extended its winter schedule at the Bureau of Streets and the Municipal Garage. This means that employees are spread out over 1st, 2nd, and 3rd shifts to reduce the number of people working at any given time.

The Bureau of Wastewater Treatment and Sewer Collection is also temporarily shifting their schedules to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd shifts, and those employees who can, will be working from home. This will minimize exposure and maintain a group of back-up employees should someone fall ill. The Department of Public Works will continue curbside garbage and large item pickup.

All City employees who can telework will continue to do so throughout the pandemic, and others will be on-call for emergency operations.

“These are extraordinary times, which call for extraordinary measures,” said Mayor Joe Schember. “We need to do everything we can to protect the residents of the City of Erie and our brave first responders while still providing critical public services. We ask everyone to Stay Calm, Stay Home, and Stay Safe.”

The declaration will be available on the City of Erie’s website at cityof.erie.pa.us.