



## **Mayor's Statement**

### *A statement from Mayor Mary Katherine Greenlaw on the Fredericksburg Coronavirus Preparations*

**(Fredericksburg, VA) March 13, 2020** – Extraordinary times call for extraordinary measures. We want to assure the residents of Fredericksburg that we have formed a City staff team that is communicating with our health providers, regional stakeholders, and the leadership of our schools and institutions. We are focused on crafting contingency plans of support for our providers of services to our citizens. The City has prepared the Emergency Operations Center in case it needs to open it. The EOC will provide continuity of operations for City Government in which all departments work together to make high level decisions. Our management is weighing a possible declaration of emergency here in the City.

I applaud our local businesses and restaurants who are stepping forward and taking measures to keep their customers and employees safe. Our businesses are making deliveries available and offering to go orders, in addition to their services. Many organizations are stepping up for our community in great ways.

City Hall is open and City Hall will remain open and will be here to serve you. We are expanding our broad band capabilities and preparing telework policies for essential employees. Daily briefings to the public will be available on our website [www.fredericksburgva.gov](http://www.fredericksburgva.gov) and social media accounts for FxbgGov.

The City has not closed any public facilities at this time. The Dorothy Hart Community Center and all of the City's parks and trails are open and we encourage residents to enjoy them this weekend. According to department policy, Parks, Recreation and Events cancels all programs when City Schools are closed. As a result, all Parks, Recreation and Events programs and classes have been canceled until Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>. The Children's Art Show and Youth Sports have been postponed until further notice.

The City School system is planning to implement their mobile lunch program to provide a meal a day to our communities.

The City Manager's office is organizing a Volunteer Corps to help provide volunteers to organizations such as the Thurmon Brisben Center and Micah. It's a group of our City Employees to serve as a contingency for the necessary services that are largely manned by volunteers in the community.

On Tuesday night, Council authorized the City Manager to craft a special Sick Leave guideline for City Employees. It is special because it applies to part time and full time staff and encourages any employees who are sick to stay home. This is a critical step in keeping infections down – STAY

home if you are sick. This policy allows those without much sick leave, or no sick leave at all, to focus on health – without the jeopardizing their paycheck.

The City staff has stepped up cleaning services of public buildings. We are encouraging all staff and residents to continue to follow CDC guidelines for disease prevention and follow guidance from the Virginia Department of Health.

We will post daily updates on our website at [www.Fredericksburgva.gov](http://www.Fredericksburgva.gov). For more information please feel free to call the City Manager's office at 540-372-1010.

We are an exuberant community full of life. Spring is here and this will soon be behind us. Please know that we are fully focused on offering support to our community today and standing strong as Fredericksburg always has throughout our history.

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