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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# City of Rochester Announces Declared State of Emergency While Highlighting Continuity of City Services

March 20, 2020 - ROCHESTER, MINN. – The health and safety of our Rochester community continues to be the City of Rochester’s top priority. On March 13, 2020 Governor Walz declared a peacetime emergency and on March 17, 2020 Olmsted County declared a health emergency due to COVID-19. The City of Rochester is declaring a local emergency with the hope that it brings clarity to the community that Rochester is and will continue to comply with the recommendations of those orders, as well as have the authority to enact additional authorities. In addition, the City continues to work on ensuring community members and businesses have the information and resources they need.

Mayor Kim Norton shares, “It is vitally important that all community members take seriously the current situation our city, state, nation and the world faces. We ask that you follow the guidelines and recommendations of our public health entities. This is especially important with social distancing, which includes the need to have our youth stay away from congregating together. If someone in your home is ill, the most helpful thing for slowing the spread is of for everyone in the home to stay home, too.”

The City of Rochester will do everything it can to protect and serve the community during the pandemic. We ask that each resident comply with the guidelines provided by the local, state and federal public health entities. Broadly, at this time, those personal care requirements are:

- Stay home if ill or in one of the vulnerable categories
- Maintain social distancing of 6 feet
- Do not congregate with groups of 10 or more
- Avoid non-essential trips
- Use vigorous handwashing with soap and water; use hand sanitizer when handwashing is not possible
- For more information, visit the [Minnesota Department of Health’s website](#) – which also has [information in various languages](#)

The City recently shared two important documents that provide key contact information as well as information about City services. Those can be accessed by visiting the [City’s COVID-19 website](#).

“The City of Rochester continues to work each and every day to respond to this ever changing situation. This includes identifying and implementing innovative solutions to how we can continue to provide our services. We encourage the community to keep reaching out to us,” shares City Administrator Steve Rymer.

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