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Media Alert

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Rochester City Council Actions on March 23, 2020

What: The health and safety of the Rochester community continues to be the City of Rochester’s top priority. The Rochester City Council, with the support and involvement of the City teammates, brought forward and approved, the following actions and resolutions on March 23, 2020:

Details: **Declaration of Local Emergency:** The City Council consented to the Declaration of Local Emergency issued by Mayor Norton on March 20, 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Declaration of Local Emergency shall continue until terminated by the City Council.

Support of COVID-19 Safety Measures: A resolution was adopted stating that the City of Rochester encourages all community members of and visitors to Rochester to practice physical distancing at all times, even when outdoors. Individuals should stay six feet away from any person not in their household to help protect healthcare workers and first responders. This encouragement shall remain in effect until the Governor’s peacetime emergency ceases.

Shelter In Place Call to Governor Walz: The City Council respectfully requested Governor Walz to immediately issue an executive order placing further restrictions to combat COVID-19, including:

- All persons living in Minnesota stay in their place of residence subject to exceptions.
- Prohibit all public and private gatherings outside of a household or living unit.
- Closing all non-essential businesses.

Moratorium on Parking Meter Enforcement: City Administration issued a 30-day moratorium on meter enforcement, effective immediately. This temporary measure, supported by the Chamber of Commerce and the Rochester Downtown Alliance, is subject to change as necessary to meet the needs of the community. Businesses that require parking for take-out services can obtain a Right of Way permit from the Public Works Department (pwpermits@rochestermn.gov).

This measure further loosens parking restrictions in the downtown district in order to support the City's economic stability objectives. Parkers are urged to only use these metered spaces for short term use. Last week, the city announced an end to season parking requirements such as alternate side parking. Also, the enforcement of residential parking permit zones has been suspended until the end of March.

All other parking ordinances remain in effect including no parking zones (including driveways, fire hydrants, and mailboxes), and overnight parking restrictions. Please observe all posted signs in the downtown area.

The latest City news and information regarding COVID-19 can be found by visiting the [City webpage](#).

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