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March 20, 2020

City of Winnemucca Residents:

This has been a turbulent time for our nation, our state and our city. I acknowledge the uncertainty, the fear and the unwelcome changes that have come into all our lives. Not only are we continuing to prepare against the spread of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), but now we are fighting an economic battle with recent guidelines from our state government.

Truly, as a city, we are concerned for both the physical and the economic health of all community residents.

As you are likely aware, on Tuesday, March 17, Nevada Governor Steve Sisolak issued the [Nevada Health Response COVID-19 Risk Mitigation Initiative](#), which calls for all non-essential businesses to temporarily close to the public, effective March 18, for 30 days.

In summary, the initiative identifies non-essential services and sectors as:

- Entertainment and hospitality, including but not limited to strip clubs and brothels, casinos, concert venues, arenas, auditoriums, stadiums, large conference rooms, meeting halls, and cafeterias;
- Recreation and athletic facilities, including but not limited to community and recreation centers, gyms, health clubs, fitness centers, yoga, barre and spin facilities;
- Beauty and personal care services and facilities, including but not limited to barber shops, beauty, tanning, waxing hair salons, and nail salons and spas;
- Retail facilities, including shopping malls except for pharmacy or other health care facilities within retail operations. Retailers are encouraged to continue online operations with pickup and delivery.

While we absolutely concur with the state's efforts to curb the potential spread of COVID-19, we are seeking clarification on some "non-essential sectors and services" that, in an urban area, may not seem essential, but in a remote, rural community like Winnemucca may be considered such. We will advise if we receive new and/or updated information.

During this time of both health and economic uncertainty, we offer our own initiatives as the City of Winnemucca:

- PLEASE follow recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

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to clean your hands often; avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth; cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue (of the inside of your elbow), throw the tissue away and immediately wash your hands; clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces; avoid close contact with people who are sick; put distance between yourself and other people; and stay home if you are sick. **Businesses that remain open should closely follow these recommendations.**

- All residents who have been laid off due to COVID-related initiatives should immediately file for unemployment insurance benefits. Please visit <http://ui.nv.gov/> to begin that process.
- Federal and state governments are discussing small business relief packages that may come in the form of loans, grants or other measures. We will share those details if and as they come.
- Please review the Humboldt County Report—a combined community bulletin that is updated daily at <https://spark.adobe.com/page/IIU1h2xbgNKeR/>.
- For all your COVID-related news, please choose only credible sources for the most recent updates and information; for news specific to the City of Winnemucca, please visit our homepage at <https://www.winnemuccacity.org/>.
- Try to do what you can to support local business and services, now and when we are able to resume normal operations.
- With the supply of toilet paper being unpredictable at local stores, please remember to “Watch what you flush.” The city’s wastewater system is designed for human waste and toilet paper only. Items such as paper towels, tissues, rags and wet wipes/baby wipes (even if they say “flushable”) can cause issues in the wastewater system as well as the homeowner’s portion of the system. These items do not break down like toilet paper and can cause slower flows and backups of the system.

For your information, the City of Winnemucca continues to operate as usual. City offices are open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For your convenience, water and sewer payments may be completed by phone (775-623-6340; 775-623-6338); online at xpressbillpay.com; or by dropping payment in the dropbox at the front door to City Hall, 90 W. 4th Street.

Additionally, all other city services continue with the exception of the closure of both the Bode Howard Memorial Pool and the Winnemucca Municipal Golf Course Club House.

As a final note, this isn’t the first time our area has faced difficult challenges and, of course, it won’t be the last. But that is what has impressed me about this community from the beginning: people are determined and resilient and smart; they intuitively understand how to help themselves and each other. We are not alone—not any of us regardless of our circumstances. We are here to help.

Thank you,

Mayor Rich Stone