COVID-19 Pandemic

I would like to begin this newsletter by offering well wishes to all those affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and my heartfelt condolences to all those who have lost loved ones to this terrible illness. Know that I am doing everything within my power to ensure that you are protected by advocating for more resources, testing kits and stimulus funds for small businesses so that our community can thrive once this pandemic is over. We must all continue to stand together in the battle against COVID-19, secure in the knowledge that this too shall pass.

District 6 Resident:

After showing signs of a slight recovery, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer is looking to lift Michigan’s state of emergency in a couple of weeks. Reports show that Michigan has been hit hard by the COVID-19 virus, with Wayne County leading the way in the number of confirmed cases.

District 6 Zip Codes 48235 and 48219 have proven to be coronavirus hot spots with 48235 having the highest infection rate per capita - 162 cases per 10,000 residents - and the highest number of confirmed cases at 1,603, according to recent data from the city of Detroit.

We must continue to be vigilant in our fight against this terrible virus even with the encouraging signs of the number of cases leveling off.

We must remain committed in taking the precautions to keep ourselves and families safe. Therefore, I recommend that you continue social distancing, avoid close contact with anyone experiencing symptoms, avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth as much as possible and wash your hands often with soap and water. It is also advised to wear a mask or some form of facial covering that covers your nose and mouth when outside your home.

District 6 residents please know that my staff and I have been working diligently since this crisis began, and our office is here to help. Know that I am here to serve you and that we are stronger together!
What you need to know about the COVID-19 pandemic:
Getting the facts, dispelling myths and keeping yourself and others safe

1. Wayne County is a COVID-19 hotspot
As of mid-April, Wayne County – including Detroit – accounted for more cases and fatalities than any other county in the U.S., except for four that include portions of New York City.

2. African Americans are especially at risk
Health officials in Wayne County and across the nation have noted that African Americans are overrepresented both in the number of reported cases and the number of deaths linked to the COVID-19 pandemic. Gov. Gretchen Whitmer has created a task force to look into the reasons behind this disparity.

3. COVID-19 affects more than just the elderly
The Wayne County Department of Health, Human & Veterans Services reports that 60 percent of the county’s confirmed cases involve those age 59 and younger. Roughly half of reported fatalities involved those under age 70.

4. There is no COVID-19 vaccine or “miracle drug” for treatment of patients
While research continues, health officials believe it could take a year to 18 months to develop an effective vaccine. At the same time, a recent study cast substantial doubts on the effectiveness of hydroxychloroquine, a drug touted in some quarters as a potential cure for COVID-19.

5. You can have COVID-19 even without displaying symptoms
Health officials are especially concerned about COVID-19 because, unlike many other viruses, you can pass it to others without displaying any outward symptoms on your own. Officials also believe that one infected person can pass COVID-19 on to as many as 40 other people.

6. Hand washing, hand sanitizing, social distancing and wearing a mask in public remain the best ways to protect yourself and others from becoming infected
The Centers of Disease Control continues to recommend these five procedures:
- Washing your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after you have been out in public, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. (If soap and water are not available, use a hand sanitizer.)
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Maintaining social distancing of at least six feet from others and staying home as much as possible.
- Wear a face mask, but with the understanding that it doesn’t reduce the need for social distancing.
**Commissioner Baker McCormick sponsors county Youth Council**

Wayne County Commissioners unanimously supported a resolution by Commissioner Monique Baker McCormick to create the Wayne County Commission Youth Council, a new organization dedicated to promoting youth education, community involvement and civic interaction.

The goal is to bring together youth from varied socioeconomic backgrounds and multicultural neighborhoods to assist in planning, developing and implementing activities and services that help young people become socially responsible community members.

Council activities will begin Sept. 1 of each year. Members will be sophomores, juniors and seniors, enrolled in any Wayne County high school. Each county commissioner may appoint two students, selected through a process that includes a completed application form, personal essay, referral from a school administrator, teacher or civic leader and parental consent.

Applicants will be notified in writing of their acceptance and council members will elect their own officers.

The Wayne County Commission Youth Council will present an annual report to the Wayne County Commission by July 15 of each calendar year, making recommendations to the commission about new programs and services for Wayne County youth.

Each commissioner will be responsible for distributing application forms in their district.

**Resolutions oppose bullying, support workers**

Through resolutions sponsored by Commissioner Monique Baker McCormick, the Wayne County Commission took stands against bullying and in support of workers with disabilities and those who care for military veterans.

All three resolutions were unanimously approved by her fellow commissioners.

The Commissioner’s anti-bullying resolution notes that the National Center for Education Statistics reports that one in every five school children faces bullying every year and calls on parents, educators and elected officials to educate themselves about the effects of bullying and take action to prevent it from occurring.

It was presented in accordance with National Bullying Prevention Month, held each year in October.

Her resolution in support of workers with disabilities salutes individuals with disabilities working throughout Wayne County.

It also salutes businesses that currently employ workers with disabilities and calls on all county businesses to do their part in adding workers with disabilities to their workplaces.

It was presented in accordance with National Disability Employment Awareness Month, also held each year in October.

The resolution supporting veteran’s caregivers made Wayne County part of the national Hidden Heroes campaign and was designed to raise awareness about the issues military caregivers face, bring critical resources to help them and connect military caregivers with others providing similar services.

**Commissioner stresses the importance for better testing**

Calling it a “matter of life and death,” Wayne County Commissioner Monique Baker McCormick called for improvements in COVID-19 testing during a recent interview that aired on WXYZ-TV in Detroit.

Commissioner Baker McCormick’s concerns were prompted by a situation involving her daughter, Keianna, a student at Western Michigan University who was tested in mid-March but waited more than two weeks without receiving her results.

The concern, Commissioner Baker-McCormick said, is that delays in receiving test results causes people who test positive to delay seeking treatment.

“So we’re saying and telling people that we’re trying to prevent this, the spread of the coronavirus, but we’re not doing our job as leaders and elected officials and making sure that everyone that needs a test is tested -- and they’re tested timely, and they can actually get the results,” Commissioner Baker McCormick said.

**COVID-19 testing in Wayne County**

**PHARMACIES**
- Walgreens, 11516 Grand River Ave.

**HEALTH PROVIDERS**
- Central City Integrated Health, 10 Peterboro Street, (313) 578-6123.
- Coronavirus Community Care Network, 778 W. State Fair Ave.

**HOSPITALS**
- Ascension St. John Hospital, 22101 Moross
- Henry Ford Hospital, (313) 874-7500
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