Stay home, Stay safe:

Dear friends:

We all face major changes in our lives as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. It has also forced changes in the way business is conducted in Wayne County and on the Wayne County Commission.

Those Wayne County employees defined as non-essential under Gov. Gretchen Whitmer’s Executive Order on COVID-19 continue to be furloughed with pay and are working from their homes.

The Wayne County Commission is currently conducting meetings via the app Zoom.

This newsletter provides answers to a number of the questions I have been asked lately about the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact, including information on where members of the public can find accurate information on keeping themselves and their families safe, where small businesses can apply for special loans and how the public can participate in commission meetings.

I hope you will find it useful and hope you will continue to practice social distancing and continue to follow Gov. Whitmer’s Executive Order on slowing the spread of COVID-19.

Stay home. Stay safe.

Wayne County steps up to assist small businesses

The Wayne County Commission recently expanded the county’s COVID-19 Small Business Relief Fund, allocating an additional $2 million from the county’s general fund to increase its potential funding to $14 million and make loans available to small businesses throughout the county.

The loan program represents a partnership between the county and Wayne County-based TCF Bank. It provides low-interest loans of up to $50,000 to eligible businesses. While the program initially targeted small business in low-income census tracts, it is now available for businesses in every county community.

Businesses can learn more about the program and apply for loans by contacting one of the 15 TCF Bank and Chemical Bank banking centers located in Wayne County. Loan applications and a list of banking centers are available at tcfbank.com/waynecounty and also at chemicalbank.com/waynecounty.
Where to find information on the COVID-19 pandemic

One of the most frequently asked questions involving the COVID-19 pandemic is: “Where can I go for accurate information on keeping myself and my family safe?” Fortunately, Wayne County and the City of Detroit are making this information readily available.

Tips on staying safe are included on the city’s health department website https://detroitmi.gov/departments/detroit-health-department and on the county website www.waynecounty.com.

Detroit residents without internet access can also call the city health department at (313) 876-4000.

A complete list of resources available to Detroit residents is also available at the website COVID 313, https://covid313.org/.

In addition, the District 7 Facebook page, District 7 – Detroit, also contains updates especially of interest to residents of this district.

An official report from the Wayne County Department of Health, Human & Veterans Services is also released each day at https://www.waynecounty.com/departments/hhvs/wellness/novel-coronavirus-information.aspx and shared via the Wayne County Commission Facebook page. This report includes updated information from the county and state, as well as from federal and international health officials, regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Wayne County website, www.waynecounty.com, includes a dashboard showing an up-to-the minute breakdown of the impact of the pandemic for all Wayne County communities, excluding Detroit.

COVID-19 Outbreak
Situation Report - 53.1
April 20, 2020
For Operational Period: April 17 – 19, 2020

Situational Awareness

- A five-year-old girl from Detroit is the first child in Michigan to die as a result of COVID-19 complications. The child had developed a rare form of meningitis and brain swelling. After spending two weeks on a ventilator, Sunday, it was removed as she had stopped showing signs of improvement.
- Governor Whitmer has sent a letter to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requesting that cost-sharing requirements for emergency work be waived for the State of Michigan in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Initial estimates suggest that state revenues could be reduced by $15 billion in fiscal year (FY) 2020 and another $4 billion in FY 2021, which represents about 15% of annual state revenue sources, excluding federal funds.
- At Washington State Capitol an estimated 2,500 people gathered to protest the state’s stay-at-home order calling on the governor to lift the order. Few attendees wore masks, and many gathered tightly around speakers against the guidance of public health officials who recommend a six-foot distance to limit the spread of the virus.
- In Jacksonville, Florida beaches have reopened for exercise only. The reopening however, drew out large crowds with many not wearing masks or following social distancing guidelines.
- The U.S. and Canada have agreed to extend the border closure for an additional thirty (30) days for nonessential travel.

Actions Taken

- The Public Health Emergency Operations Center (PHOC) is at FULL ACTIVATION.

Useful Resources

- Learn how you can plan, prepare, and cope with stress before and during a COVID-19 outbreak.
- Plan and make decisions in advance of an illness.
- Know how to protect and support the children in your care.
- Find ways to cope with stress that will make you, your loved ones, and your community stronger.


Disaster Distress Helpline: 1-800-985-5990

Prepared by: A. BANE & L. HAGE / Approved by: S. DINARO
UNCLASSIFIED/CLEARED FOR PUBLIC RELEASE
COVID-19 pandemic poses special concerns for African Americans

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to spread, health officials have begun to note that, while information remains spotty, African Americans appear to face greater risk for infection and death.

Recent statistics from the State of Michigan show that Black and African Americans account for at least one-third of those hospitalized for COVID-19 as well as 40 percent of those who have lost their lives to the virus.

At the same time, race was not listed for roughly one-third of those hospitalized and one-quarter of COVID-19 related fatalities.

Under those state statistics, Detroit accounts for just under 30 percent of all cases and slightly more than one-quarter of all fatalities.

While the federal Centers for Disease Control has come under criticism for not providing COVID-19 breakdowns by race, the website WebMD recently published a report indicating that health experts believe several factors could place African Americans at greater risk.

These factors include poverty, access to adequate medical care, lack of opportunity to work from home and underlying health factors, including obesity and diabetes.

That also indicates African Americans must take extra care in following such practices as social distancing, extended hand washing and sanitizing and using protective masks and gloves in slowing the spread of COVID-19 and reducing the risk of infection.

Commission meetings can be viewed through Zoom app

Due to stay in place orders involving the COVID-19 pandemic, the Wayne County Commission will be holding its meetings by teleconference until further notice.

The public can participate in the meetings, as they occur, via the Zoom app. Zoom can be accessed via computer, table or smartphone. Individuals can join meetings by visiting https://zoom.us/j/8599664354 and dialing (312) 626-6799.

The meeting ID no. is 859 966 4354. Zoom also allows the public to comment and ask questions. Questions can also be emailed to plane@waynecounty.com.

Meetings are held in accordance with the Michigan Open Meetings Act and under the commission’s standard rules of order.

Meeting agendas are available on the county webpage, www.waynecounty.com.
Attention Small Businesses:
Learn what Wayne County can do for you through this limited time offer.
Wayne County Commissioner

Martha G. Scott
DISTRICT 3
500 GRISWOLD, 7TH FLOOR
DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48226

2019-2020 Committee Assignments
Wayne County Commission
Committee of the Whole
Chair, Committee on Government Operations
Vice Chair, Committee on Public Safety
& Homeland Security
Committee on Ways and Means
Special Committee on Senior Citizens & Veterans Affairs
Task Force on the 100th Anniversary of Women’s Suffrage
Rosa Parks Memorial Task Force

All Wayne County Commission meetings open to the public.
Please visit waynecounty.com for dates, times and locations.

Frequently requested County phone numbers

Commissioner Scott.................. (313) 224-0878
County Executive..................... (313) 224-0286
County Commission............... (313) 224-2383
County Clerk.......................... (313) 224-6262
County Prosecutor............... (313) 224-5777
County Treasurer............... (313) 224-5990
Register of Deeds....................... (313) 224-5850
Sheriff................................. (313) 224-2222
Veteran’s Services.................. (313) 224-5045
Senior Services.................. (800) 851-1454
Public Services.................. (313) 224-7600
Parks Division.................. (734) 261-1990
Report a Road Hazard........... (888) 762-3273
Health Department.................. (734) 727-7000
WC Circuit Court.................. (313) 224-0517
WC HealthChoice.................. (800) 935-5669
WIC Program.................. (734) 727-7156
Environmental Services.......... (313) 224-3620
Homeland Security................ (734) 728-3711