

Statement from Mayor Jack Warren – March 18, 2020

As concerns over COVID-19 (coronavirus) continue throughout our state, country and world, the City of King continues to evaluate and adjust our services, programs and events as the best available information indicates we should. As Mayor, I want to bring everyone up to speed on how we are responding. I am proud of our City Council, our staff, and especially our business community and citizens as we have all made major adjustments over the past several days, and I have seen folks working together and supporting each other in incredible ways.

Our staff has been actively anticipating and planning our response efforts since early February, when we all began educating ourselves on this virus and asking “what if” questions. As events have unfolded, our City’s leadership team has implemented measures to continue City services while ensuring the health and safety of our citizens and employees. Our City Council and I have remained informed of updates on a daily basis.

The King City Council met in emergency session on Sunday, March 15th to review a response plan put together by City staff and approve a declaration of emergency which I authorized, and which does not impose any additional restrictions on our citizens, but does allow staff to adjust city operations as necessary.

These measures have proven effective so far, and we appreciate citizens’ patience during times of change and adjustment. As this situation evolves, City staff continue to meet regularly to discuss and evaluate current measures and discuss plans and next steps and moving forward.

On Wednesday, March 18, 2020, a cross section of City of King employees and department heads pulled together as an organized emergency management team to ensure an efficient and effective response to this event, and to plan for future issues that may arise. We have also been cross-training employees to guarantee that all City functions are covered in the event employees need to be absent due to illness or family care, and we continue to look for ways to increase outreach to provide resources to our Senior population while normal Senior Center activities are suspended.

We are taking all necessary precautions, following all CDC recommendations, and encouraging residents to take preventative actions to help stop the spread of the virus – including staying home when possible and more especially when sick, washing our hands, maintaining a 6-foot distance from others, and avoiding contact with people who are sick.

Continue to visit the COVID-19 Information page on the City’s website for updates: <https://www.ci.king.nc.us/index.asp...> Our newly appointed Public Information Officers will be regularly refreshing our website and social media platforms with updates as they become available. Those with questions should utilize these resources as well as the CDC’s website or the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services’ hotline at 866-462-3921.

I encourage our citizens to stay calm, and to encourage and check on each other as we have always done, but we must now do even more of this in the days ahead. Look for ways to volunteer or financially support the efforts of King Outreach Ministry to help families in need. Many churches and organizations are mobilizing to provide food and other resources to families and our older adults. Dr. Brad Rice is organizing volunteers to feed children and provide for educational needs. Consider supporting any and all of these efforts as you are able. Let’s take care of each other.

Please support our local businesses to the extent possible by purchasing gift cards and utilizing to-go or curbside services at our local restaurants. We are all in this together, and I am proud of our community working together to get through the days ahead. May God Bless each of us and our City, and our entire world throughout this event, and may we all bless each other and take care of our neighbors as we face these challenges.

Jack Warren
Mayor
City of King