



3301 Silver Lake Road, St. Anthony, Minnesota 55418-1699

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April 23, 2020

Good day Villagers,

As our community moves forward with the Governor's stay-at-home order during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, I'd like to address how well our City and community are responding and rising to the challenge.

Our City staff meets daily by phone and in-person to discuss what they have heard from state and county agencies, peers, and the community. Also discussed are current staffing levels, operations and procedures. As always, the main goal is to provide core services while keeping residents and employees safe.

For example, we've been utilizing Zoom Video Conferencing as we conduct regular council meetings. So far, this approach has worked well. Residents have the option of participating via virtual face-to-face. I continue to chair the meetings from the dais at City Hall while the rest of the Council participates online. Residents also have the option to participate virtually via phone, or ask questions through email. Going forward, the Planning Commission intends to provide the same virtual meeting format.

New procedures have also been implemented across all departments. Here are just a few examples:

- City offices are staffed, yet employees are only accessible via phone and email.
- Public Works employees are refraining from working together in groups, and not entering homes.
- The Police and Fire departments have instituted protocols as they interact with residents, handling situations while keeping their distance, dependent upon the circumstance.
- The Fire Department has implemented a disinfecting procedure that is applicable to all City operations.
- Our Liquor Operations— after being closed for several days— have now been retrofitted with plexiglass at the sale counters and delineation markings of at least six-feet to help keep customers and staff safe while social distancing.
- Liquor Operations is exploring the idea of adopting a curbside pickup option.
- Administration is evaluating the impact of both Hennepin and Ramsey counties deferment of real estate tax payments.

*Our Mission is to be a progressive and welcoming Village that is walkable, sustainable and safe.*



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In addition, I'm so impressed by the little things that I see within the broader community:

- Neighbors are delivering meals to each other while practicing social distancing.
- Sharing of puzzles within a "Little Free Library" stand.
- Colorful chalk messages from children.
- The feeling of community as we take advantage of our walkable Village and get out and enjoy springtime.
- Appreciation for Community Services as they continue to offer one-on-one assistance to residents in need.
- Donations of homemade masks being made right here in St. Anthony.

I want to give special thanks and appreciation to our front-line City staffers who are the unsung heroes during these tough and unseen times. I also want to thank all the medical professionals that reside in St. Anthony, and beyond.

I encourage all of us to follow the social distancing guidelines set forth by Gov. Walz, not only for our own safety, but for the healthcare professionals that are tirelessly working to keep us healthy and protected.

The pandemic will continue to require everyone to make great and small sacrifices. I would like to reference a chalk message that I read recently, encouraging us to remain patient and understanding as we adjust to the impacts of COVID-19. Let's also be bold and innovative. Let's continue to work together as a community in our response, as we get through this together.

As always, take care of yourselves and each other, Villagers.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Randy Stille". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Randy Stille, Mayor