

## OAK RIDGE CITY COUNCIL MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 09, 2020

TO: Mark S. Watson, City Manager

FROM: Kristy Wilkerson , City Manager Admin Assistant

SUBJECT: COMMUNITY SUPPORT AGAINST COVID-19

Introduction

An item for City Council's consideration is a resolution urging the active support and habits of all Oak Ridge citizens to protect our children, each other, our businesses and homes from the ravages of the COVID-19 virus.

Funding

The passage of this resolution has no cost for implementation but strongly suggests the voluntary participation and support of our citizens with changing habits.

Background

Since February 1, 2020, the City of Oak Ridge has been in an active mode to muster city resources for protection of its citizens. Public safety personnel, Utility personnel, and all city staff members have taken steps to protect the community while continuing to provide essential city services. The City has taken steps to close or limit public facilities, secure access to essential work areas, provide for new on-line meetings, practiced social distancing, and accommodated people in the conduct of city business.

In the past weeks' advisories through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines, regional health services, and through active wastewater testing by the City, the City continues to determine the ongoing growth of the pandemic in our area. Zip code specific data from the Tennessee Department of Health shows the rate of new infections increasing in Oak Ridge. It is anticipated a nationwide spike will occur over the winter months as people spend more time indoors, especially during the holiday season when people tend to gather with families and friends. In a recent report, White House Coronavirus Response Coordinator Dr. Deborah Birx stated it is essential to be consistent in messaging about the use of masks, distancing, and hand washing, as well as limiting indoor gatherings including gatherings with friends and family. It is advised and encouraged for everyone to take all precautions immediately and instantly available to include, but not limited to: Wear MASKS! Wash Hands Frequently! Use Hand Sanitizer! Avoid large Crowds! Ensure appropriate DISTANCING from activities and functions.

Since March 1, 2020, the City has had fourteen (14) employees test positive for the COVID virus and thirty-two (32) employees have been quarantined. This pandemic is serious! Data from other communities and states and Vanderbilt University have indicated the above steps are simple actions everyone can take every day to successfully limit the potential of contracting the virus and before an anticipated Winter 2020-2021 spike occurs. We encourage and call upon all Oak Ridge citizens to exercise caution and take these pre-emptive actions daily on behalf of ourselves, vulnerable citizens, and our youth.

Recommendation

The City Manager recommends approval of the resolution supporting the active support and habits of all Oak Ridge citizens to protect our children, our elderly and vulnerable populations, each other, our businesses, and homes from the pandemic impacts of the COVID-19 virus.

Attachments:

[Masks Strongly Urging Precautions Resolution Final Version.docx](#)