



CITY OF DESOTO

SOARING FOR EXCELLENCE

COVID-19 Response

April 7, 2020

APRIL 7, 2020 Community Update

DeSoto

*“Dedicated to continue
providing critical services to
the DeSoto community”*

- Public Safety Updates
- City Employees & Workforce
- Financial Impact
- Continuation of City Services

PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATES

*“Dedicated to continue
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- Paramedic stationed at SWRCC Dispatch Center to screen and monitor COVID-19 calls
- Bi-weekly monitoring of long-term adult care facilities, including assistance with personal protective equipment procurement
- Regional COVID-19 EMS response vehicle to avoid exposure

PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATES

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- Public Safety employees medically evaluated and temperatures taken daily
- Ellis Davis testing site manning and usage of DeSoto's command vehicle
- Enforcement of City, County, and State emergency declarations
- Avoidance of additional exposures by monitoring positive case addresses through Dallas County

PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATES

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- Personal protective equipment currently at 90-day supply levels
- Quarantine and self-isolation locations established for DeSoto's public safety workforce
- Purchased 3 hand-held decontamination systems to use on apparatus, vehicles, equipment, and facilities

PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATES

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- Since March 17, highest population in City's jail at one time was 5
- During week of March 22-28, 21 arrests were made (6 related to family violence)
- 1,292 Police Department calls for service during week of March 22-28

CITY EMPLOYEES & WORKFORCE

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- Previous disaster leave policy replaced with new policy consistent with the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA)
- 15 employees received assistance & benefits under the previous disaster leave policy

CITY EMPLOYEES & WORKFORCE

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- New Disaster Leave Policy (FFCRA Compliant)
 - 2 weeks of pay for qualifying coronavirus-related events
 - City offers opportunity for full pay during qualifying events
 - Emergency responders, if afforded time off, will receive same benefit level as non-emergency responders

CITY EMPLOYEES & WORKFORCE

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- FFCRA, Part I
 - Allows up to 12 weeks of leave to care for children under age 18 whose school or day care is closed, or care provider is unavailable
 - First two weeks can be unpaid
 - Payment is 67% of salary to a maximum of \$200 daily, or \$10,000 for the 12-week period

CITY EMPLOYEES & WORKFORCE

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- FFCRA, Part II
 - Allows up to 80 hours of leave for employees who:
 1. Are subject to quarantine or isolation order
 2. Are advised by health care provider to self-quarantine
 3. Are experiencing symptoms and seeking medical diagnosis
 4. Are caring for any individual subject to orders described above
 5. Are caring for their child under age 18 whose school or place of care has closed, or if the childcare provider is unavailable
 6. Are experiencing a substantially similar condition

#1-3: 100% pay

#4-6: 67% of pay

CITY EMPLOYEES & WORKFORCE

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- Emergency Responders are eligible for Part II (80 hours), but excluded from Part I (12 weeks)
- Emergency responders include:
 - Police Officers
 - Firefighters
 - Jailers
 - Health Inspector
 - Code Enforcement Officers
 - Animal Control Officers
 - Utility Maintenance Workers
 - Street Maintenance Workers
 - Parks Maintenance Workers
 - Fleet Maintenance Workers

CITY EMPLOYEES & WORKFORCE

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- For Emergency Responders, necessary leave will be considered on a case-by-case basis
- If additional leave is granted for Emergency Responders, additional time will be paid at same rates/conditions as employees eligible for Part I
- For all employees, rates of pay at 67% may be supplemented with leave banks to earn full pay



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CITY EMPLOYEES & WORKFORCE

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- Workplace social distancing
 - Work stations moved
 - City buildings closed to the public
 - Alternating shifts for maintenance workers
 - Alternating assignments
- Teleworking assignments being widely utilized
 - Approximately 20% utilization among all full-time workforce

CITY EMPLOYEES & WORKFORCE

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- Flexible hours and training available
- Completing special projects
- Working in New and Different Ways
 - Teleconferencing
 - Collaboration software tools
 - Establishing cross-State working groups
- Finding new ways to provide the same services at the same levels
 - Drop off boxes
 - Invoices by email
 - HR centralized email process
hr@desototexas.gov

FINANCIAL IMPACT

“Dedicated to continue providing critical services to the DeSoto community”

- Preliminary March 2020 Financial Report shows DeSoto within projections for the month
- 98% of property taxes collected through March 2020
- As of March 2020, City is ahead of sales tax revenues; decreases expected to show in May revenue numbers (\$1.2 million shortfall)

FINANCIAL IMPACT

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- Mixed drink tax budget = \$42,000; Majority of budgeted revenue expected to be uncollected
- Franchise fee budget expected to be reached
- Licenses and fees revenue currently higher than projections, but anticipated to slow in upcoming months if construction slows down (\$100,000 shortfall)

FINANCIAL IMPACT

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- Intergovernmental revenue is currently 20% under projection; expected shortfall due to lack of reimbursement for School Resource Officers (\$300,000 shortfall)
- Charges for services revenue currently over projection and expected to meet budget
- Recreation fees will be short of budgeted levels; \$13,000 in refunds issued

FINANCIAL IMPACT

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- Fines and forfeiture revenue is currently over projections, but expected to slow down (\$180,000 shortfall)
- Interest revenue expected to meet budgeted levels for FY 2020
- Current expected General Fund shortfall is \$1.8 million

FINANCIAL IMPACT

- In Public Utilities, billing revenue is not expected to decrease significantly
- Utility collections could see a decrease of \$1.7 million due to potential rise in uncollected and delinquent accounts

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CONTINUATION OF CITY SERVICES

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- DeSoto Public Library
 - Additional online resources available
 - Curbside pickup
 - Daily telephone service (incl. Saturdays)
 - 3-day quarantine of returned materials
 - Thorough cleaning & disinfection
- Development Services
 - Following & enforcing guidelines for construction industry
 - Document drop off in Town Center foyer (construction docs, permits, registration apps, zoning apps, plans, etc.)

CONTINUATION OF CITY SERVICES

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- Development Services
 - Capital project status meetings via webinar
 - Continuation of construction inspections
 - Virtual pre-construction meetings
 - Online permit processing
 - Continuation of building inspections
 - Limiting and coordinating contractors for repairs and maintenance on City facilities
 - Delaying renovation projects

CONTINUATION OF CITY SERVICES

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- Development Services
 - Increasing cleaning staff presence in offices and high “touch” locations
 - Virtual Development Review Committee meetings
 - Plan & Zoning Meeting will be conducted by webinar
 - Maintenance staff divided into 2 crews to limit contact
 - Addressing work orders for streets and drainage
 - Maintaining City fleet for essential personnel

CONTINUATION OF CITY SERVICES

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- Public Utilities
 - Suspending late penalties, extension fees, reconnection charges, and service disconnections
 - Providing flexible payment arrangements
 - Offering online water conservation classes via Facebook Live and YouTube
 - Promoting use of water alert system (AquaHawk) to identify potential plumbing issues
 - Continuation of telephone and email support

CONTINUATION OF CITY SERVICES

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- **Public Utilities**
 - Processing new water service applications
 - Adhering to recommendations for social distancing and wearing protective gear while processing mail
- **Parks & Recreation**
 - Closed playgrounds and exercise equipment
 - Removed outdoor basketball goals

CONTINUATION OF CITY SERVICES

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- Parks & Recreation
 - 1 person per maintenance vehicle
 - Daily cleaning of City vehicles and work areas
 - Practicing social distancing and implementing preventative hygiene and PPE protocols
 - Contacting customers for refund options for facility rentals
 - Processing facility rental and recreation class refunds
 - Coordinating virtual fitness classes

CONTINUATION OF CITY SERVICES

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- Parks & Recreation
 - Providing meals to seniors via pickup and delivery (staff using PPE)
 - Contacting seniors to check in during the crisis
- DeSoto Municipal Court
 - Fines & costs can be paid by phone or online
 - Continuation of online court video conferencing
 - Continuation of chat feature with the court (text 972-737-7558)

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