



The City Council Chronicle



Seated

Mary Lupien, East | Jose Peo, Northwest |
LaShay Harris, South | Michael Patterson, Northeast

Standing

Mitch Gruber, At-Large | Willie Lightfoot, VP, At-
Large | Loretta Scott, President, At-Large | Jackie
Ortiz, At-Large | Malik Evans, At-Large



From the President's pen: *A note from Loretta Scott*

A Note on COVID-19

I would like to take a moment to address the impact of the global outbreak of COVID-19, which has now reached our community. First – to our brave healthcare professionals, first responders, delivery drivers, postal workers, grocery store employees, City employees, and everyone on the frontlines, we thank you and pray for your safety every day. Your dedication is helping our community remain afloat during this trying time. To the families and loved ones of those suffering from COVID-19 – our hearts go out to each of you. To those at home with their families – use this as an opportunity to grow closer and spend quality time together.

I cannot stress the importance of following the advice of Governor Andrew Cuomo, Dr. Michael Mendoza, Adam Bello and Mayor Warren. The most important thing we can do is to stay home and stop the spread of COVID-19. If you develop symptoms including shortness of breath or a sudden fever—call your primary care physician, or the Department of Health if you do not have a primary care physician.

I also want to stress the importance of social distancing during this time. Please don't go out unless it is a necessity, we have heard positive feedback from medical professionals who have offered their thanks to Monroe County residents for their efforts. While we may be physically apart during this pandemic, we are in this together. Remember to stay in touch with your loved ones, your friends, and your neighbors. A call, an email, a text can brighten someone's day and make them feel less alone.

I recognize and empathize with everyone struggling through this difficult time. While each day brings uncertainty, with each day we step in the right direction, towards normalcy. In the meantime, do not hesitate to utilize the resources offered by the City, State, and Federal government, summarized throughout this newsletter. Please review the resources in this newsletter. Every day, the Council and the Administration are fighting together for what is best for our city and the citizens of Rochester. We know we will get through this, but we must work together.

Sincerely,

FAQs about COVID-19

What is the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)? COVID-19 is a respiratory illness that spreads person to person. The virus that causes COVID-19 was first identified during an investigation into an outbreak in Wuhan, China. The virus has now spread to a majority of Europe and Asia, many countries in Africa, Central America, South America, Canada, and the United States.

What are the symptoms? The most common symptoms are fever, cough, and shortness of breath. These appear 2-14 days after exposure.

How is COVID-19 spread? The virus is mainly spread from person-to-person who are in close contact (within 6 feet). When an infected person coughs or sneezes, respiratory droplets are spread and possibly inhaled through the lungs. It may be possible for someone to get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it, then touching their own mouth, nose, or eyes, but this is not the main way it spreads.

How can I protect myself from getting infected? 1) Clean your hands often, preferably by washing them with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after being in a public place, after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water are not readily available, use

hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they are dry. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands. 2) Stay at home as much as possible. Only leave when absolutely necessary. 3) Avoid close contact with people via social distancing. When in public, make sure to stay six feet from other people at all times.

What is social distancing? Social distancing slows the spread of contagious diseases by limiting large groups of people coming together, closing buildings, and canceling events. This is the reason for school closures, non-essential business closures, and public building closures including the libraries and City Hall.

What should I do if I am experiencing symptoms of COVID-19? Call your primary care physician right away. If you do not have a doctor, call the County COVID-19 hotline at 585-753-5555. Do not go to the Emergency Room or Urgent Care without calling your doctor or the County first.

More information can be found at the following websites:

[CDC COVID-19 Information](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus) - www.cdc.gov/coronavirus

[Monroe County Information](http://www.monroecounty.gov/health-COVID-19) - www.monroecounty.gov/health-COVID-19

[City of Rochester Information](http://www.cityofrochester.gov/coronavirus) - www.cityofrochester.gov/coronavirus

City Operations during COVID-19

Please review City operations during the State of Emergency put in place by Mayor Lovely A. Warren:

Building Closings: City Hall, Neighborhood Service Centers, R-Centers (excluding sites open for food distribution) Libraries, and the Traffic Violations Agency are closed to the public until further notice.

Police and Fire operations remain unaffected. For police, fire, or ambulance services, call 911. For information about City services, call 311.

The Public Market remains open for regular hours for residents to purchase food and groceries from vendors only.

All online transaction fees for City payments will be waived until further notice. A secure drop-box will be made available at City Hall for residents to drop off permit applications, payments, and assessment grievances. Payments can also be made by mail.

All City Civil Service testing is postponed.

Rochester Animal Services is open by appointment only. Call 585-428-7274 or email animal-services@cityofrochester.gov.

Information for Neighborhood and Business Development services is available at <https://www.cityofrochester.gov/nbdcoronavirusops/>

Resources: Food, Transportation, Unemployment, and more

Monday through Friday, 8AM-5:30PM the following R-Centers will provide breakfast, lunch, and dinner to the city's school-age children:

- Adams Street, 85 Adams St.
- Ave D, 200 Ave. D
- Carter St., 500 Carter St.
- Tyshaun Cauldwell, 524 Campbell St.
- Frederick Douglass, 990 South Ave.
- Flint Street, 271 Flint St.
- David Gantt, 700 North St.
- Trenton and Pamela Jackson (Clinton-Baden), 485 N. Clinton Ave.
- Thomas Ryan, 530 Webster Ave.

Monday through Friday, 8AM-2:30PM the following schools will provide breakfast, lunch, and dinner to the city's school-age children:

- School #7, 31 Bryan St
- East Upper & Lower School, 1801 E. Main St.
- Dr. Freddie Thomas Campus, 625 Scio St.
- RIA /Jefferson High School Campus, 1 Edgerton Pk.
- James Monroe High School, 164 Alexander St.
- John Williams School No. 5, 555 Plymouth Ave.
- Wilson Foundation Academy, 200 Genesee St.
- Abelard Reynolds School No. 42, 3330 Lake Ave.

To find Grab and Go Meals near you, [click here](#) for the Meal Finder, or go to <https://rochesterny.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Nearby/index.html?appid=7447589ca1d8427cb0090b14e580e42d>

Food Pantries

To find information about local food pantries, call 211 on a Frontier landline or 1-877-356-9211. Each caller will be counseled and referred to a food pantry that best serves their family's needs.

SNAP

Federal legislation March 18 that may provide SNAP recipients of households with children who would have otherwise received free or reduced-price meals in school with additional, supplemental emergency benefits. Households wishing to access this emergency benefit can either call the SNAP Workgroup at 585-753-2740 or email dfa2a26.sm.monroe.team41@dfa.state.ny.us for more information.

Childcare

For information about child care, call the Child Care Council at 585-654-4720 or go to [their website, https://childcarecouncil.com/for-parents/find-child-care/](https://childcarecouncil.com/for-parents/find-child-care/)

Transportation

RTS is temporarily waiving bus fares until at least April 19, or until the state of emergency is lifted in Monroe County. If someone has recently bought a weekly or monthly pass, RTS will credit the customer or apply the credits to future trips. The company is promoting social distancing by requiring customers to enter and exit the busses using the rear door.

Internet Access

Charter Communications is offering free Spectrum broadband and Wi-Fi access for 60 days to households with K-12 and/or college students who do not already have a Spectrum broadband subscription and at any service level up to 100 Mbps. To enroll, call 1-844-488-8395. Installation fees will be waived for new student households.

Interest Free Loans for Small Businesses

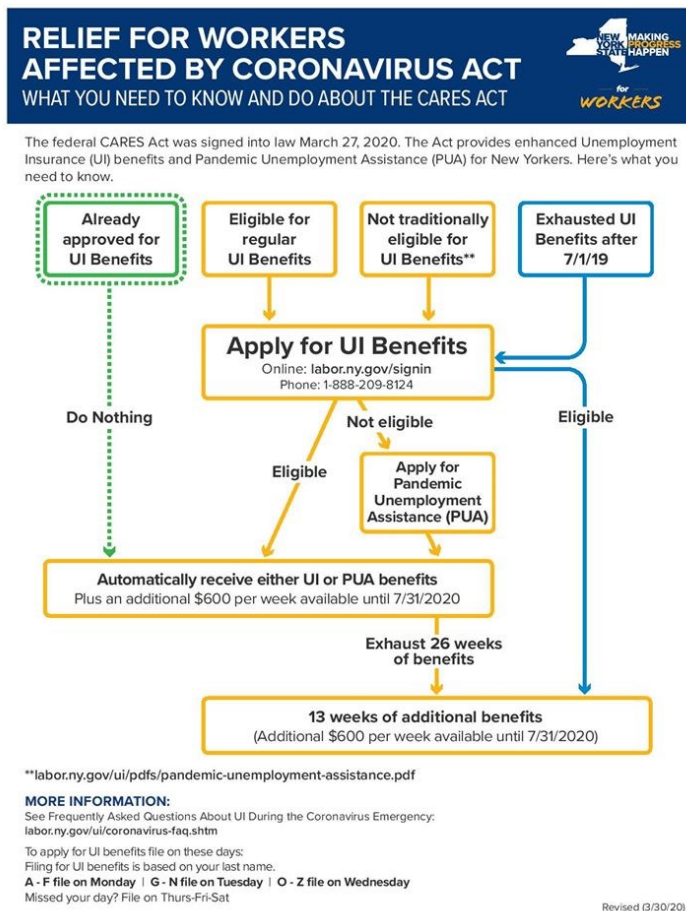
Monroe County and the City of Rochester are offering zero-percent interest loans starting at \$10,000 for small business owners via the [Monroe County Industrial Development Corporation \(https://www2.monroecounty.gov/economic2-index.php\)](https://www2.monroecounty.gov/economic2-index.php) and the [Kiva program \(https://www.cityofrochester.gov/kiva/\)](https://www.cityofrochester.gov/kiva/), respectively.

Federal Taxes and Property Taxes

Federal Tax Filing has been delayed until July 15, 2020. Fourth quarter City property tax, water, and refuse payment are now due on April 30.

Unemployment Assistance

The federal CARES act was signed into law on March 27, 2020, expanding Unemployment Insurance and Assistance. Please follow the below flowchart to see if you qualify.



Please note, this Chronicle was published on April 6, 2020. The information included may change.

Upcoming City Council Meetings

The City Council, in adherence to States of Emergency at the National, State, and Local Level, the Governor's Executive Order Number 202, and guidelines from National, State, and Local Health authorities, will not be conducting in-person meetings until further notice. During this time, the City Council will be conducting their meetings using video conferencing. The public is welcome to watch these videos, which will be streamed live on the [Rochester City Council's Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/RochesterCityCouncil) (<https://www.facebook.com/RochesterCityCouncil>) or [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/user/RochesterCityCouncil) (<https://www.youtube.com/user/RochesterCityCouncil>). The webcast from City Council Chambers is currently unavailable. A full list of public meetings is available at www.cityofrochester.gov/publicmeetings.

Those wishing to participate in Speak to Council can submit their comments via email to council@cityofrochester.gov. The email must include your name, address, phone number and topic for the record, anonymous comments cannot be accepted. Council staff will publicly read the first three minutes of individual's comments, two minutes if more than 20 comments are submitted. Please note Council staff has limited access to the main Council line, therefore we

are encouraging emailed Speak to Council submissions. Submissions will be accepted until 1:00 PM the day of the City Council Meeting.

Upcoming Council Meetings

Speak to Council will begin at 6:30 PM and Council Meetings begin at 7:30PM. Until further notice, all meetings will be conducted using video conferencing and live streamed on Facebook and YouTube.

April 14, 2020

May 12, 2020

June 16, 2020

July 21, 2020

August 18, 2020

September 15, 2020

October 13, 2020

November 10, 2020

December 15, 2020

Councilmember Evans Guides Council into Budget Season

Councilmember Evans, chair of the Finance Committee, regularly meets with the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to stay up to date with issues impacting the City's budget and finances. With budget season is upon us, Evans recently released the City Council's Budget Hearings finalized schedule in the end of February, included below. City Council will hear presentations from each City department, providing an overview of their proposed operating budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

The Councilmembers and City Administration encourage participation and feedback from the citizens of Rochester as this process begins. Information regarding Public Hearings can be found at www.cityofrochester.gov/publicmeetingaccess. For the time being, any Council meetings will be streamed.

2020 Budget Hearings:

April 30 at 4:30PM — Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) Hearings

May 15 — Mayor's Proposed Budget Released

June 3 — Budget Hearings by Department, 9:00AM-5:00PM

9:00-9:15AM — Council/Clerk

9:15-11:00AM — Administration

11:05AM-12:45PM — Department of Environmental Services

1:50-2:40PM — Rochester Fire Department

2:45-4:00PM — Department of Recreation and Youth Services

4:05-5:00PM — Emergency Communications Department

June 9 — Budget Hearings by Department, 9:00AM-5:00PM

9:00-9:15AM — Undistributed/Contingency

9:20-10:15AM — Information Technology

10:20AM-11:15AM — Finance

11:20AM-12:00PM — Library

1:10-3:10PM — Rochester Police Department

3:15-5:00PM — Neighborhood and Business Development

June 10 — RCSD Hearing at 3:30PM; Joint Public Hearing with RCSD at 5:30PM

June 11 — Finance Committee Meeting at 4:00PM

June 16 — Council votes on the Proposed Budget at June Council Meeting at 7:30PM