

THE TOWN OF
Highland Park
TEXAS

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Telephone 214-521-4161

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&
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER
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TOWN SECRETARY
Gayle Kirby

March 23, 2020

As our community continues to address the COVID-19 outbreak, I have an enormous amount of appreciation for those who are on the frontlines of this pandemic. I know each of you shares in that appreciation and is doing your part to slow the spread by following the Stay Home Stay Safe Order, also known as Shelter in Place, effective until April 3rd as directed by Dallas County. The Town of Highland Park is also taking every precaution at Town Hall and out in our neighborhoods, to limit the spread of COVID-19. We too are adhering to the strategies listed in the County's Declaration of Local Disaster for Public Health Emergency. Together, we can all take steps to mitigate the public spread of COVID-19, which includes hand washing, disinfect frequently touched surfaces, avoid touching your face, social distancing, and following the restrictions set forth in the Stay Home Stay Safe Order. Given the daily updates from Federal, State, and County Officials, a repository of COVID-19 information has been added to the Town's website.

Town staff take pride in their ability to provide face-to-face communication and service to the community. That said, for everyone's protection, we've taken a variety of steps to limit the foot traffic at Town Hall. In closely monitoring the guidelines from health authorities, we will be utilizing telecommuting for Town staff whose positions allow them to work from home. This temporary adjustment complements sheltering in place, social distancing and will begin on Monday, March 23rd. You can find phone and email contact information for Town staff on the main page of the Town's website, www.hptx.org, to include a listing of online services available to you.

I want to encourage you to take advantage of these remote opportunities to conduct business when engaging Town Services rather than visiting Town Hall at this time. We will miss interacting and serving you face to face, but know this change is necessary for the safety of our staff, our residents and all others who need our services.

My heart goes out to all those affected by COVID-19. Our collective efforts to reduce the spread of the disease is critical. The most vulnerable populations to the virus include older adults and those with underlying health conditions such as heart disease, lung disease and diabetes, but it has also been found in young patients as well.

This is a team effort – contact Highland Park DPS (214-521-5000) if you feel a welfare check is needed for a neighbor. Further, as more demand is placed on social service organizations, consider donating to those agencies. You might also think of creative ways to help those with limited resources who are hit hardest by these restrictions and business closings. We remain a strong community of responsible, respectful, and generous people. We're in this together and together we will survive.

Margo Goodwin
Mayor