



April 20, 2020

Dear fellow Sunset Hills resident:

It has been barely three weeks since the COVID-19 pandemic abruptly interfered with our lives. I know it seems much longer than that. I am writing this letter to you to continue to keep you informed of the City's response to the pandemic in Sunset Hills, Missouri, as well as to personally encourage you in your daily challenges.

As many of you already know, the City and I have made many postings on our website to keep you informed of the City's actions and response to the COVID-19 pandemic as it relates to Sunset Hills. We have also published on the City's website, information and governmental links to the national, state, and county guidelines, standards, and orders concerning COVID-19.

The City, as already stated in previous letters to the residents, is doing everything it can do to keep our employees and residents safe. We are following all guidelines and standards recommended by federal, state, and local authorities. I have held Zoom video conferences with City department heads and staff. I have continued to go to City Hall to conduct City business, but I, and other employees, are following all safety guidelines and recommendations. We are wearing masks (I personally sewed them and have provided them to any staff members requesting one).

We are confronted with an unprecedented highly contagious deadly virus that has already infected many in our state and even some Sunset Hills residents. We are all under a STAY AT HOME order except for essential services. Based on the foregoing, the closure of the City parks was a difficult, if not painful decision. I discussed the matter at length with the City department heads, the city administrator, medical doctors, including Dr. Sam Page, St Louis County Executive. Dr. Page has a large County Department of Health staffed with many doctors and nurses. Dr. Page closed St Louis County parks, and he urged the county municipalities to do the same. Many state and federal parks have been closed as well. As Mayor, my duty is to protect the general welfare of the public. The public means all our residents that includes those that are elderly that are at high risk for severe infections from COVID-19, and those that are at high risk because of other pre-existing diseases or conditions.

Some of the City aldermen want to reopen the city parks. I, as your Mayor, feel this is an unwise and premature choice considering the presence of a deadly, highly contagious disease in our community, that is known to have infected some of our own Sunset Hills residents. Taking a chance, however unwittingly, to infect someone else at a city park would endanger the lives of others. With a deadly and highly contagious disease, we must minimize the risks as much as is feasible. Many people, despite the warnings and admonishments, guidelines, and standards, are still not social distancing and wearing protective equipment like facemasks. I should also say, in all fairness, that reopening our parks at this time would subject the city to criticism by many of our residents who want the parks to remain closed for now.

I will continue to address the City's response to the COVID-19 pandemic on the City's website, and I will continue to email the Alderman on a near daily basis with updates concerning the pandemic. Other than the issue with reopening the City parks, NO alderman has voiced any objections to what I have done as your mayor in response to the COVID-19 outbreak, nor has any Alderman objected to, criticized, shared any concerns, or suggested any other response than what I have already done. No Alderman has asked for a special aldermanic meeting, emergency or otherwise. I have kept the Alderman informed and the residents informed as I have already stated. I have received no complaints by any Alderman that I have neglected to keep anyone informed.

Normally, our City would have the regular April Alderman meeting on the fourth Tuesday or April 28, 2020. Because of social distancing rules, and need to wear facemasks, and limit the number of people meeting at one time, we are forced to reschedule the April 28, 2020 meeting to May 12, 2020 to allow for preparations for a video conference type board meeting. Residents are asked to submit their resident comments by email or fax beforehand. Check the website for further details concerning this meeting.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. We are all in this together, and we will get past it. Stay strong and God Bless.

Mayor Pat Fribis