



City of Leavenworth

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City Administrator - *Vacant*

April 9, 2020

Dear Community,

I hope you are enjoying the sunshine and warmth, and getting a chance to soak it in a little! And I hope you are doing so while keeping physical distancing practices in mind. There have been some positive developments recently. I am sure all of you have heard how Governor Inslee is dismantling the field hospital down at Century Link Field arena. But, dear friends, the absolute worst thing you can do with that news is to relax and soften your following of the strict guidelines in place. For one reason, it is working precisely because of the measures in place and how many are following them, and if we let up now, it could come roaring back with a vengeance. So, please, please, pretty please with peanut butter on it, (showing my age there again), keep them up. And there is another important reason why we should not be lulled into complacency. I just got off the phone from a conference call for elected officials with our Chelan-Douglas Health District. And the facts are this: We are running roughly three weeks behind our western Washington neighbors. So, if we want to see similar results here, we are going to have to redouble our efforts! And that brings me to...

There are still too many of you going to the grocery stores or Marson's, or another essential businesses, without a mask on. Come on, people. You can do this. Just a bandana or something. It is strange. I get that. It is not particularly attractive. I get that! (Did you catch my selfie with me in my mask??) But this is not the time to worry about image, or mussed hair, (new category of hair problems – no longer worrying about “bed head” hair, but “mask hair”). Anyway, a lot more of us need to take this added precaution. The truth is, some of us might have the virus and can spread it, without ever knowing we have it. So, it is not just about protecting yourself, it is also about protecting others from you when you feel perfectly fine and don't think you need a mask. So please, for all of us, be ugly for now!

Finally, I brought up another concern that we have in our county. As you know, we have many second homes in Leavenworth, (and even a higher percentage in the unincorporated county). These can be great part-time additions to our community. But our concern is this. If they want to be in their second home during this crisis, fine. But please do not travel back and forth. This is the absolute worst thing that you can do for yourself, our community, our state. On the call this morning we had all three of our state legislators on the call – Rep. Steele, Rep. Goehner, and Sen. Hawkins. Since the leadership group of the legislature has regular conference calls with the Mayor, we asked that they approach this subject with the Mayor. It is not the same as overnight rentals and coming over for vacation getaways. Those have been addressed very forthrightly. This one is a bit different. I know we have some second home owners staying with us now. I know we have others that check into this messaging regularly. I hope you all will understand that this is said with care for you as well as others. If you are here now, please stay until this is over, and if you haven't come yet, please don't until this is over. This is not personal. But it is a plea. Help us as we all work together to get through this!

Thank you, all! And stay safe, and stay home!



Carl J. Florea, Mayor

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