



## City of Leavenworth

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### City Council

Carl J. Florea - *Mayor*  
Carolyn Wilson  
Mia Bretz  
Sharon Waters  
Clint Strand  
Jason Lundgren  
Anne Hessburg – *Mayor Pro Tem*  
Zeke Reister  
City Administrator - *Vacant*

April 13, 2020

Community Members,

As I look out my window, I see the deep haze of smoke settling over the southwestern portion of our valley looking up the Icicle. Not a good sight at all! Kind of cruel, actually. As we sit planted in our homes in order to help defeat this pandemic, we should not need to be reminded that there are other threats we face, besides the current one. While we are hunkered down, and virtually closed up, it is cruel to be reminded that we sit in the top community in our state facing the potential for the kind of fire devastation experienced by areas of California. That is absolutely not fair to get this reminder now! But it is also a truth that we must live with, and do our best to also be prepared. Unfortunately, we don't get to opt out of any other disasters or challenges to our economic recovery simply because we have had enough. But what we can do, is to do our best to plan and be prepared for the big "what ifs" that lie ahead. Even as we stare down one huge disaster, we have to plan and prepare for the future. Our community is resilient. We have proven that over and over. And we will keep proving it, one day at a time. One step at a time. That is why your City Council is planning to meet with our local Emergency Management personnel, not to decide what to do about this pandemic, but to find out what we can do as a community to be better prepared for other potential disasters. We owe it to all of you!

I remain hopeful that it won't be too much longer (no, I don't have a crystal ball and time is definitely relative with this bug), before some pieces of this stay home, stay safe order will be lifted. But it won't happen all at once. And it won't bring everything back to normal. It will most likely come in small steps. Easing some restrictions, but keeping in place our need for social distancing. The last thing we want to occur is to ease up too soon, and relax too many standards, only to have the virus come roaring back at us and undo all the good we have accomplished to date. It is so crucial that we don't let up now. That we continue to practice those best practices that have helped us to date. And when we get the wonderful news that some restrictions are eased, we don't rush back to "normal", but continue to abide by practices still in place to keep us safe. Hang in there! Stay home, stay safe! Does that get old? It sure does! But it is still true!



**Carl J. Florea, Mayor**

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