



## City of Leavenworth

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

April 17, 2020

Dear Community Members,

As this drags on, and on... I still try to find the silver linings. I have said this before but it is worth repeating. This whole pandemic is kind of pushing our community together in ways we haven't seen for quite some time. We are living out the truth that sometimes we were able to ignore or downplay, and that truth is that "we are all in this together". We are one community. We are not the business community and the residential community; we are ONE community. Pretty obvious, isn't it? But somehow, we have strayed from that truth. I have heard too much that it is "their" fault for our predicament. (Just fill in the blank for whose fault it is.) The highway had become a giant divide. But now? Now the illusion of our independence from one another has been dashed by this virus. We truly must plan for our future together. We truly must find a way forward that is sustainable for all of us!

And speaking of sustainable. One of the things that worries me most is that many of our businesses, small enterprises started by local entrepreneurs, will not survive. I hate to think that the lessons we will learn will be learned on the backs of many of our great "mom and pop" stores that make our home unique. That is as depressing as the physical costs of this pandemic on peoples' health. What can we do? I pledge to you all, that we will be as creative and innovative as we can be to help our neighbors survive this crisis. Our neighbors who are out of jobs, our neighbors who have had to close their businesses. We are one!

It was interesting for me to note that when I was elected Mayor, someone in the business community noted that there was no business represented on the Council, unlike past Councils where there was a majority of business people on the Council. There was concern that the Council would not understand the needs of the business community. A valid concern, I'm sure. However, let it be known that, since this COVID-19 virus has literally consumed us, more than one member of our Council has expressed concern for our businesses and what they are facing with these mandatory shut-downs. What can we do to help them? What can we do to make sure that none of them go away because they could not survive this?

I do not know the answer to this. But what I do know is this: your City is committed to you who are businesses and to your welfare, just as much as we are committed to our residents who are feeling the pain of this pandemic. I pledge that we will do what we can, to be creative, to look "outside the box", to make sure that we do all pull through together. That is what being a sustainable tourism community looks like. Survival for all, no, thriving for all. Can we get there? Can we get beyond this current crisis and envision a future where all of us thrive? I hope so. That is what I ran on last fall. I believe it is achievable. Let's pledge together to make that a reality! Stay safe! We will get through this, and into a new future, TOGETHER!



### Carl J. Florea, Mayor

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