



City of Leavenworth

700 Highway 2 / Post Office Box 287
Leavenworth, Washington 98826
(509) 548-5275 / Fax: (509) 548-6429
Web: www.cityofleavenworth.com

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*

May 6, 2020

Community Members,

Many of you are probably aware that there is a move by our County (and I believe Douglas County as well) to appeal to the Governor's Office to allow our County to accelerate to Phase 2 now, instead of waiting until the end of the month. There are a number of steps to that process, including getting support from public agencies, medical facilities, and the cities within the county. Some of you may have seen the letter of support for this issued by our Chelan County Sheriff Brian Burnett. There is an increasing amount of pressure from a number of fronts to support opening now, not the least of which is the struggling business community. Totally understandable. Believe me, I want to get things opened up, even a little bit...

I was called by Mayor Kuntz of Wenatchee to ask if I could sign a letter of support for this effort. My response was that I could not at this time. One of the biggest reasons is due to the nature of our businesses relying on tourist traffic. It means that Leavenworth has a clientele unlike what is seen in the Cities of Wenatchee or East Wenatchee. There, you do not have a relatively small area of business that will attract relatively large numbers of people to mill about. That is not their issue. But it is our issue. And therefore, I believe that we need more things in place before we can even consider opening the doors a crack. That includes large numbers of hand sanitizer stations scattered downtown. And it includes a very large supply of masks (not the medical kind, just a basic disposable mask). We still have not been able to get these in large quantities yet. The City has had an order that was back ordered and is supposed to come through soon. But that was not an order for the whole town, just for City needs. Until we can get these in significant numbers, it would, in my mind, be irresponsible to open back up. I have said it before, and I will say it again, that the last thing Leavenworth needs, is to open up only to be the source of a bunch of new cases that give us a black eye. We want and need to open in a responsible way, that does all we can to protect our residents, our workers, and our guests.

And let's be honest. When the Governor does give us the go ahead to move to Phase 2, as a State, that does not include unfettered travel, it includes limited nonessential travel (day trips, basically). But we are already seeing lots of visitors here, and I am going to take just a wild, wild guess that they are not all here even now as day trippers. (I don't know too many people who would drive an RV, or haul a trailer or 5th wheeler, to go on a day trip). So, even when we are ready to open a bit, we have to know that we will be serving those who are not abiding by the Governor's orders. Quite frankly, I don't know what we can do about that. But what we CAN do something about, is to expect them all to wear masks in our downtown core and while inside any business. We can sanitize. We can limit. We can remind people ad nauseum to space themselves six feet apart. We will do this, together, and right!

Stay Safe!



Carl J. Florea, Mayor

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