



## City of Leavenworth

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

May 14, 2020

Dear Community Members,

Isn't this rain nice? (I'm just kidding.) I am not going to write a long note today, because I am worn out and my fingers are getting calluses that are too heavy to lift between keys. But I wanted to let everyone know that, after several hours of meetings and discussions with a number of the businesses, I have modified our downtown closing for this weekend only. We will be closing off Front Street to traffic, making it pedestrian only, between 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Streets and between 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Streets. Ninth will remain open, Front Street from Gustav's to 8<sup>th</sup> Street, and 8<sup>th</sup> Street from Front to Commercial Streets will remain open. This will allow for social distancing in the heart of the busiest part of town. We will assess on Monday how this went, and how we might need to tweak it for the Memorial Day weekend. We may expand what we close for that weekend, but will not do less. In addition, we will have the bus loading / unloading zones marked for 15 minute parking for those who want to do pick up in that core area. You can see the map of this new area on our website or Facebook page. This, along with the encouragement of mask wearing and social distancing, will give us a trial for the future when we actually hope to open up.

As I have stated ad nauseum, it is on all of us to set a culture of safety so that when we open up, we will be able to stay open. Businesses need to protect their workers, themselves, and their guests. As Sean Ottley from Cascade Medical reminded all of us, even more important than wearing masks and gloves is the sanitation you do of items touched by others, whether counters, merchandise, credit card machines, etc. A glove only protects you until you touch something unclean – so unless you are going to wear a new pair every time you touch a new item, you are better off just washing your hands (or using sanitizer) thoroughly between handling an item for one customer and another. Clean and sanitize should be our new mantra.

I am hopeful that we will see some positive difference in our downtown from last weekend to this one. Of course, we know we aren't expected to have great weather, so that also may work in our favor. But we will continue to work to make Leavenworth a great community, with great hosts, who care about our guests as well as ourselves. Stay safe!



**Carl J. Florea, Mayor**

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