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**CITY COUNCIL TO CONSIDER TEMPORARY EMERGENCY ORDINANCE
RELATED TO COVID-19**

On Monday, March 16, 2020, Urbana Mayor Diane Wolfe Marlin will ask the Urbana City Council to approve a Temporary Emergency Ordinance to address the COVID-19 pandemic. This Declaration of Emergency is needed to provide increased flexibility in various government functions in the face of a rapidly-evolving health emergency. A summary of the ordinance's provisions is attached.

“This emergency declaration is necessary for cities to access State and Federal resources to respond to the pandemic,” Marlin said Sunday. “It will help us slow the spread of the virus in the community, protect the health of city employees, and help ensure continuity of essential city services and programs to our residents.”

If adopted, the Temporary Emergency Ordinance would last only until the Governor of the State of Illinois lifts his disaster declaration or the Mayor lifts her declaration of emergency, whichever is later. The City Council will have the authority to repeal this Temporary Emergency Ordinance before either the Governor or Mayor lifts their respective declarations.

“The elected officials and city employees are committed to the people of our city,” Marlin stated. “The adoption of this emergency ordinance will preserve our ability to maintain that commitment to safety and service. The authority granted in this ordinance will be used only as necessary to slow the spread of the virus and to avoid overwhelming the healthcare system.”

The City Council meeting will be open to the public. However, occupancy limits and social distancing in the Council Chambers will be strictly enforced. Those choosing to attend should wash their hands thoroughly or sanitize once inside the building. If a member of the public has any symptoms of illness, for the sake of all other community members, please stay home and watch the broadcast on Urbana Public Television.

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Contact:

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Urbana, Illinois Declaration of Emergency Summary of Provisions

WHAT THIS ORDINANCE WOULD DO OR ALLOW

- The Mayor or City Council would be able to conduct city business by audio or video conferencing as provided by the Open Meetings Act.
- The Mayor would be able to cancel board and commission meetings and extend deadlines of required actions.
- The Mayor may suspend licenses or permits for special events or other licenses or permits which could reasonably impact the spread, containment, or treatment of COVID-19 with the City of Urbana.
- The Mayor may authorize any purchase reasonably related to COVID-19 through expedited purchasing processes.
- The Mayor may seek reimbursement of expenditures from any state or federal agency related to city efforts to address or contain the spread or treatment of COVID-19.
- The Mayor may adjust or adopt personnel policies related to leave time, benefits, or conditions of employment to provide sufficient staffing during the term of the emergency.
- The Mayor may enter into temporary agreements or Memorandums of Understanding with city bargaining units in order to provide city services and ensure the health and safety of the public and employees during the emergency.
- The Mayor may close or limit access to city facilities to protect the health of the public and city employees and preserve continuity of operations.
- The Mayor may direct the City Attorney to extend time-frames for city ordinance violations to be paid or filings to be made.
- The Mayor may extend deadlines for payments due to the City.
- The Mayor will be afforded general “police” or government powers related to health, life, and safety within the City of Urbana that would have the effect of law. The ordinance also provides for delegation of powers in the case of the Mayor’s absence or incapacity.

WHAT THIS ORDINANCE WOULD NOT DO OR ALLOW

- The Mayor would not be authorized to interfere with the supply chain or delivery of goods to local businesses or consumers.
- The Mayor would not be able to limit purchases by consumers of goods or services from local businesses.
- Nothing would allow the Mayor to infringe upon Constitutional rights afforded to all U.S. Citizens.

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