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Dear Fellow Milfordians:

I writing to provide an update on the work City Council, staff and I have been involved with over the past six weeks on the COVID19 pandemic that has spread to Milford, and both Kent and Sussex Counties. I am proud of the fact that the City of Milford was one of the first cities in the State to take a proactive approach to deal with the pandemic. Prior to the Governor's State of Emergency Declaration, the City took the initiative to suspend late fees and utility shut-offs, in addition to securing all City buildings.

All City employees are considered ESSENTIAL through our responsibilities to provide water, electric, sewer, and refuse services, as well as ensuring public safety through our police, fire and EMS. They, along with doctors, nurses, respiratory therapists, delivery persons, grocery store personnel, and other service personnel are our everyday heroes in our fight against the effects of this virus.

We have paid particular concern to the Perdue processing plant as well as Genesis Healthcare Nursing Home here in Milford. In working with the State of Delaware and Perdue, more comprehensive testing has been made available for Perdue employees as well as their families. The State will also be providing educational materials in several languages to employees and their families. Genesis remains under quarantine with a significant number of reduced staff and residents.

Testing is one of the crucial components of fighting the virus. Over the next two weeks, it will be available to citizens on Mondays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 9 am to 3 pm at the Delaware DHSS parking lot at 253 Northeast Front Street. Citizens wishing to be tested will be initially screened for symptoms and/or who possess a physician's request for testing, before being authorized by medical personnel to take the test. Positive results will require the infected person to be quarantined.

Per Governor John Carney's latest modification to his State of Emergency Declaration, beginning April 28, 2020, Delaware residents are now required to wear face coverings in public settings. That includes, but is not limited to parks, stores, restaurants and businesses, both inside and when waiting in line outside.

Wearing a face covering has proven to play a significant part in slowing the spread of the virus though it does not grant permission to go out in public more often. Children under the age of twelve are not required to wear a mask, and children under the age of two should not wear a mask at all. Masks can be homemade and something as simple as a cloth material that covers your mouth and nose.

Bayhealth continues to have adequate capacity at their Sussex Campus in Milford. Separate COVID and NON COVID waiting areas have been established in the Emergency Room. Folks needing emergency care should not delay in seeking care when needed. Not seeking prompt medical attention far exacerbates this situation. Bayhealth emphasizes to the community that they remain open for all your medical needs.

The former Milford Memorial Hospital has been established as a "surge" hospital, should the number of persons requiring hospitalization exceed the capacity of area hospitals.

Many of Milford's fine restaurants remain open for delivery or pick-up. We often take for granted the great food and service they provide, and now is the time to support them. Most of them have up-to-date websites with menus, delivery times, and hours of operation.

Let's keep the Milford restaurant community strong by supporting them during this time.

While Milford is home to a number of large businesses, we are also aware of the challenges being faced by small businesses that have been forced into closure due to the pandemic. Businesses needing assistance during the State of Emergency should contact the Milford Chamber of Commerce and/or the Delaware Division of Small Business.

Milford School District will not reopen for the remainder of the school year. Please call the school district regarding any programs your children may be involved with.

Public gatherings of more than ten people are strictly forbidden under the State of Emergency. This includes houses of worship. Any violations should be reported to Milford Police at 302-422-8081, and violators will be subject to fines.

The City's summer Parks and Recreation Programs have been suspended. We are hopeful that fall programs will commence on time. Please check with the Parks and Recreation Department at 302-422-1104 for updated information.

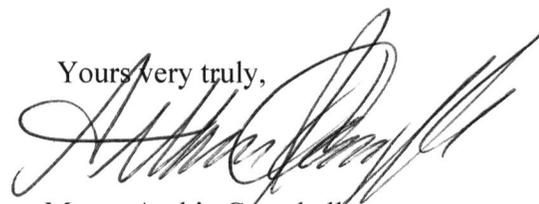
Due to the sixth modification of the State of Emergency, the City's election, originally scheduled for April 25 and rescheduled for May 9, has been postponed until **June 13, 2020**. The polling location will be at the City's Public Works Facility located at 180 Vickers Drive and polls will be open from 10 am to 6 pm. Please follow all social distancing requirements if you plan to vote in person. Citizens must register to vote in the City election by May 14, 2020. Registration can be done over the phone by calling the City Clerk's Office at 302-422-1111 Ext 1300 or 1303. Please leave a message if no one answers and someone will return you call promptly. Information will also be provided for those residents unfamiliar with the location of the Public Works Facility.

Because of the pandemic, we strongly encourage voting by absentee ballot for the June 13, 2020 Election. Anyone interested in voting by mail should contact the City Clerk as quickly as possible to guarantee receipt of the absentee ballots in time for election day.

City Council and the Planning Commission continue to conduct business using a virtual platform. Citizens may view the meeting and participate in public hearings and public comment items using a telephone or computer. Dial-in and/or log-in information for the meetings are posted at the top of each agenda which can be found on the City website (cityofmilford.com). Council will accept written comments on public hearing and/or public comment items. Please email your remarks to cityclerk@milford-de.gov. To become an official record of the meeting, all written opinions must be submitted to the City Clerk by the end of the business day PRIOR to the meeting.

The City Manager, Police Chief, City Clerk and I are in routine contact with State and County officials regarding on-going COVID19 issues. Both State and County officials have been helpful in dealing with the various issues we experience as they arise.

Lastly, I encourage all Milfordians to look after yourselves and your neighbors during this time. Remember to keep your distance (minimum of 6' apart), wash your hands, wear your masks, leave home only when absolutely necessary, and get tested if you have symptoms. Our community will learn many lessons and will be stronger for the challenges we face with this pandemic. I look forward to the occasion we can all gather together to celebrate life in Milford again. In the meantime, I pray you and your family remains healthy and safe during these uncertain and unprecedented times.

Yours very truly,

Mayor Archie Campbell