



PRESS RELEASE

Department of Communications

MEDIA CONTACT: Jolene Butts Freeman, Director of Communications and External Affairs

470-366-5411 (cell)

Jolene.Freeman@cityofsouthfultonga.gov

5440 Fulton Industrial Boulevard, SW

Atlanta, GA 30336

www.cityofsouthfultonga.gov

<https://twitter.com/COSFGA>

City of South Fulton Government

City of South Fulton Mayor William “Bill” Edwards Declares a State of Emergency and Takes Action in Hopes to Help Slow Down the Spread of COVID-19

(CITY OF SOUTH FULTON, GA – March 18, 2020) – City of South Fulton Mayor William “Bill” Edwards with support from the City Council in their Tuesday, March 17 meeting, adopted a resolution declaring a state of emergency in the City of South Fulton in an effort to take proactive measures for the health and safety of residents during the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak.

The resolution calls for the following until further notice:

- Implements a curfew for residents to be in their homes between 9:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. (with exceptions for such things as people going to and from medical facilities/work, responding to emergencies, emergency and public safety personnel, essential City Personnel, people traveling through the City to a destination outside the City and/or making deliveries within the City)
- Prohibits all public gatherings of ten (10) or more persons within the City
- Requires all businesses within the City, with the exception of medical and pharmaceutical establishments, to close indoor access to the general public daily by 9:00 p.m.
- Cancels all City Meetings, including City boards, agencies and commissions, with the exception of emergency City Council meetings

The actions listed above align with decisions made by leadership across the Country to include our nation’s president Donald Trump and our Governor, Brian Kemp who declared a statewide public health emergency on yesterday.

“It was important for the City to enact its own emergency plan to do our part to limit the spread of COVID-19 throughout the City of South Fulton. Some residents will like the plan and others may not, but we must take action to ensure the safety of our residents and to protect them from this virus,” said Mayor William “Bill” Edwards.

-more-



City of South Fulton Mayor William “Bill” Edwards Declares a State of Emergency continued...

All “essential” employees which includes the City’s police and fire department will continue to provide city services during this period, while other services and the City’s administrative offices conduct the City’s business through telecommuting.

City facilities including City Hall, Parks and Recreation and Arts facilities are closed to the public and all programs are suspended until further notice.

The city’s municipal court has postponed all cases. Notices of new court dates will be sent to the address on record for individuals whose court date was scheduled during the COVID 19 crisis. Ticket payment information is available online at www.southfultonpay.com or by calling 1-855-867-6655. *No bench warrants will be issued during the time court is suspended.*

The City of South Fulton’s Police Department has made operational changes that align with recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) when responding to situations and calls that may involve patients with possible symptoms of COVID-19. The department has taken the following steps to ensure the safety of its officers, civilian staff, and citizens:

- Officers have been issued personal protective equipment (PPE), and are using the equipment when interacting with anyone who could be exhibiting Coronavirus symptoms
- Officers will meet residents outside to take reports. Certain reports can also be generated on http://p2c.cityofsouthfultonga.gov/p2c_sfpd
- Temporarily suspended all fingerprinting for criminal history checks for licensing
- Suspended all non-essential work-related travel to reduce officers' chance of exposure
- Working to ensure that workspaces and patrol vehicles are properly sanitized
- All “non-essential” civilian personnel will be teleworking

-more-



City of South Fulton Mayor William “Bill” Edwards Declares a State of Emergency continued...

The City’s Fire Department has also made changes when responding to emergency calls with patients presenting possible symptoms of the COVID-19 based on CDC and International Association of Fire Chief (IAFC) recommendations. To ensure the safety of its firefighters and the community, the following precautions are being taken:

- Only one EMT will make face-to-face contact with a patient that has a chief complaint of any flu-like or COVID-19 symptoms
- All EMTs will wear the recommended personal protective equipment (PPE) to ensure safety for themselves, their co-workers, and patients
- All fire inspections, public and life safety educational programs, fire station tours and community events at fire stations have been suspended
- Firefighters will be exercising the use of all universal precautionary measures when providing assistance to anyone who has possible symptoms of the Coronavirus Disease 19
- Continue the operation of the Community Risk Reduction Office. Staff will review building plans submitted electronically and will be available to answer any fire and life safety questions. Residents can call the Fire Marshal’s Office at 470-809-7553 during normal business hours or email at fire.info@cityofsouthfultonga.gov
- Continue to post to the department’s Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/SouthFultonGAFire/> to keep residents updated and informed.

The City of South Fulton is encouraging all residents to please follow best practices from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Georgia Department of Public Health to help reduce the spread of the virus during this health crisis. Please see the recommended steps below:

-more-



City of South Fulton Mayor William “Bill” Edwards Declares a State of Emergency continued...

Clean your hands often

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Put distance between yourself and other people if COVID-19 is spreading in your community. This is especially important for [people who are at higher risk of getting very sick](#).
- Stay at home if you are sick, except to get medical care. Learn [what to do if you are sick](#).
- **Cover your mouth and nose** with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow.
- **Throw used tissues** in the trash.
- Immediately **wash your hands** with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, clean your hands with a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Wear a facemask if you are sick (***You should wear a facemask when you are around other people (e.g., sharing a room or vehicle) and before you enter a healthcare provider’s office. If you are not able to wear a facemask (for example, because it causes trouble breathing), then you should do your best to cover your coughs and sneezes, and people who are caring for you should wear a facemask if they enter your room.*** [Learn what to do if you are sick](#).
- If you are NOT sick: You do not need to wear a facemask unless you are caring for someone who is sick (and they are not able to wear a facemask). Facemasks may be in short supply and they should be saved for caregivers.



City of South Fulton Mayor William “Bill” Edwards Declares a State of Emergency continued...

- **Clean AND disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily.** This includes tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, and sinks.
- **If surfaces are dirty, clean them:** Use detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.

City of South Fulton residents will have access to information and will be able to report issues through the city’s 311 call center at (470) 522-4311. It is important for residents to stay connected during this time. For all updates we encourage the public to continue to check our website at www.cityofsouthfultonga.gov and access our social media platforms to stay informed.

###