



MONROE THIS WEEK

May 8, 2020 • Vol 6/Edition 17



Safe Start Washington

Thank you for reading Monroe This Week.

This week's edition provides a recap of last night's virtual Town Hall meeting and updates on the Safe Start Washington phased economic re-opening, opportunities for local businesses to communicate with County and State leaders, and three Proclamations issued to recognize important dates and an important segment of public safety professionals.



Please contact me with any and all feedback regarding the articles below. I can be reached at gthomas@monroewa.gov.

Yours in Service,

Mayor Geoffrey Thomas

ECONOMIC REOPENING UPDATE PROVIDED AT CITY TOWN HALL MEETING

Yesterday evening, May 7, the City hosted its second virtual Town Hall meeting. Focused on the COVID-19 recovery phase, the Town Hall provided attendees updated information regarding Federal, State, and local efforts to support residents and employers and plan for a safe re-opening of the state's economy.



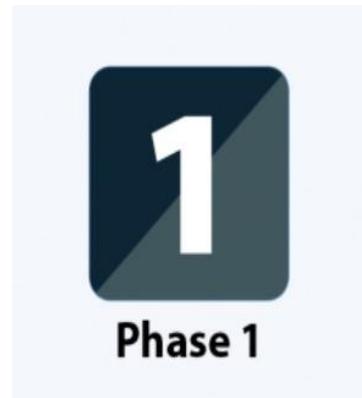
Economic Development Specialist James Palmer detailed Governor's Inslee's [four phase plan](#) for economic reopening, the metrics that will be used to determine the appropriate time to transition between phases, and requirements for Washington employers. Industry sectors will re-open at varying capacities and in different phases, there will be at least three weeks between phases, and employers will be required to maintain six-foot social distancing and limit close interactions with patrons. Mr. Palmer encouraged business owners who seek

to open in an earlier phase to collectively prepare a plan to meet the requirements and petition the governor's office.

Mr. Palmer also provided updates on Federal and State funding assistance programs. Recent legislation reauthorized the Paycheck Protection Program and Economic Injury Disaster Loan program, with an emphasis on serving small businesses. For state level programs, a review committee consisting of city staff and members of the Economic Development Advisory Board reviewed and prioritized nearly 120 local applications for the Working Washington Small Business Emergency Grant. Six applications, representing a cross-section of Monroe business industries, were identified as best meeting the grant criteria. Based on current funding, Monroe has been allocated funds for up to three grants, and Mr. Palmer expects the recipients to be notified by the state Department of Commerce around the end of the month.

ECONOMIC RE-OPENING ENTERS PHASE 1

On [Monday, May 4](#), Governor Jay Inslee signed a new [Order](#) extending the Stay Home/Stay Healthy period and enacting the [Safe Start Washington](#) phased approach to economic recovery. Phase 1 of the Safe Start Washington plan began the following day. In Phase 1, essential businesses, automobile and vessel sales, curbside retail and car washes can re-open, along with the resumption of existing construction projects, limited outdoor recreation activities, and landscaping and pet walking services. As detailed above, there will be at least three weeks between phases. Phase 2, which will include a partial re-opening of restaurants, is preliminarily anticipated to begin on June 1.



CONTINUING TO ADVOCATE FOR A WAY FORWARD

As I mentioned in last week's edition of *Monroe This Week*, I was proud to be one of sixteen local elected officials to sign a letter to Governor Inslee, expressing our appreciation for the governor's leadership throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and offering assistance in developing a plan to re-open the economy. Likely hearing similar concerns from throughout the state, earlier this week the governor announced the Safe Start Washington plan. Since the announcement of Safe Start Washington, I have heard from local small- and medium-sized business owners of their concerns regarding the timeline between phases. On Wednesday, I joined nine of my fellow mayors, along with District 5 County Councilmember Sam Low and Council Chair Nate Nehring, in [a second letter](#) to the governor. In this letter, we expressed the concerns we have collectively heard and requested the governor consider easing restrictions on small- and medium-sized businesses in Phase 1.



BUSINESS OWNERS: COUNTY WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU, STATE HOSTING INFORMATIONAL WEBINAR

The [Snohomish County Economic and Workforce Recovery Task Force](#) has launched an online Business Needs Assessment Survey. This survey is an opportunity for businesses to share how they have been affected by COVID-19, and is available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#). Answers will be compiled into a final report that the Task Force will review as they make policy decisions.



County Councilmember Megan Dunn is also hosting a series of [Business Sector Advisory Meetings](#). Business owners and employees whose income has

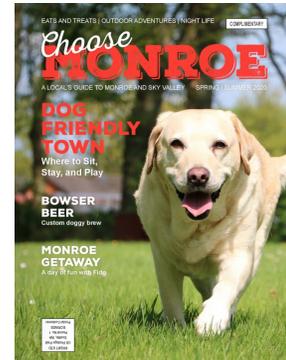
been impacted by COVID-19 are welcome to join.

At the state level, the [Small Business Liaison Team](#) is hosting a [Small Business Requirements and Resources webinar](#), which will provide an overview of state responses, resources, and other impacts affecting small businesses. The webinar is offered on three different days, at varying times, to maximize availability and schedule fit.



CITY PUBLISHES SPRING/SUMMER EDITION OF CHOOSE MONROE

Residents in Monroe will be receiving the Spring/Summer 2020 Choose Monroe publication in the mail today or tomorrow. Please understand this was developed prior to COVID-19 so featured locations may not be open and events listed may be cancelled or postponed. Please call or check business and event websites for the most current information. We hope you'll hold onto the publication for when things are open and we can all be together again. The publication is also available [online](#).



CENSUS BUREAU BEGINS PHASED RESTART

This week the [United States Census Bureau](#) began a phased restart of field operations in select geographic areas. Field operations plans will be determined in coordination with Federal, State and local health officials. Recognizing that the health and safety of census employees and the public is of the utmost importance, census field staff received training to observe social distancing protocols and were equipped with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) prior to the field operations resumption.



CITY RECOGNIZES PUBLIC SAFETY PROFESSIONALS AND IMPORTANT DATES

This week it is my honor as Mayor to issue three Proclamations recognizing true professionals who dedicate themselves to keeping our community safe, and two important dates.

On Monday, I issued the first of these three Proclamations, recognizing National Correctional Officers and Employees Week. Correctional Officers and their colleagues are often unseen and underappreciated. This week we recognize and thank the officers and staff of the Monroe Correctional Complex. I encourage you to read the full text of the [Proclamation](#), which recognizes these community servants for their vital public service.



Yesterday, I issued a [Proclamation](#) and [video](#) recognizing National Day of Prayer. It's a day meant to recognize the value of prayer, meditation, and reflection in our lives and to reflect on our relationships and duties to our community, our country and to one another. On this year's Day of Prayer, I reflected upon, prayed for, and



gave thanks for our residents and employers, and the difficult actions they continue to take to thwart significant increases in the spread of COVID-19; for the safety and well-being of the many people in vocations placing them in harm's way in order to fulfill essential duties to our community; for resolve and

comfort for people of all walks of life, who have lost jobs and businesses, who have suffered illness, and who have lost loved ones due to COVID-19; and for each one of us to persevere in sharing love and compassion for our neighbors and to seek unity of spirit above the noise that causes division. We are one people, one community, of one spirit. We're in this together and we'll get through this together. We are **#MonroeStrong**.

Today I issued a [Proclamation](#) recognizing this Sunday, May 10, as Mother's Day. This holiday is dedicating to honoring remarkable women who strive and sacrifice to encourage us to reach great heights and support us no matter the challenges we face. Mothers raise and are pillars of families, are breadwinners and community leaders who, through their example, teach the value of hard work, compassion, service, and personal responsibility. I wish a very warm Happy Mother's Day to all mothers in our community.



UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The City Council will meet in a Business Meeting on Tuesday, May 12, 2020. The meeting will be held via the Zoom remote meeting platform and participation information will be posted with the May 12 agenda.

[Council Agendas/Minutes](#)

YEAR TO DATE COMPARISONS

Curious about some of the City's major revenue streams? Don't have time to read through the entire budget? [Here](#) are a few of the City's revenue year-to-date numbers along with their prior year comparisons. If you would like further information, please contact the Finance Department at 360-794-7400 and reference *Monroe This Week*.

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS



Councilmember
Kevin Hanford



Councilmember
Patsy Cudaback



Councilmember
Jeff Rasmussen



Councilmember
Heather Rousey



Councilmember
Ed Davis



Councilmember
Jason Gamble



Councilmember
Kirk Scarboro

Have a question for your Councilmembers?
Contact them at councilmembers@monroewa.gov

