



MONROE THIS WEEK

June 5, 2020 • Vol 6/Edition 21



Thank you for reading Monroe This Week.

This week's edition provides details on the powerful and peaceful Justice March for George Floyd, personal messages to our community from myself and Police Chief Jolley, an update on the move to Phase 2, and updated 2020 Census response data for Monroe.



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

POWERFUL, PEACEFUL PROTEST MARCH HELD YESTERDAY

On Thursday, June 4, our community came together for an exceptionally powerful Justice March for George Floyd. Organized by Isaiah Cole and Caleb Cole, the March gathered at the Grocery Outlet parking lot and progressed peacefully along Main Street, 179th Avenue SE and 154th Street SE, concluding at Lake Tye Park. At the Park, community members joined in a moment of silence and reflection.



Photo Credit: Whitney Davis Photography

I am grateful for Isaiah and Caleb's invitation to speak at the Lake Tye Park gathering, along with former Monroe High School Football Coach Michael Bumpus, Monroe High School English Teacher and Black Student Union Advisor Michelle Patzelt, and community member Junelle Lewis. At the Park, I signed a [Proclamation](#) condemning racism, discrimination and hatred, and presented copies to Isaiah and Caleb. In the Proclamation, I make the following promises on behalf of myself and my administration:

- To better understand and acknowledge the privileges that I experience.
- To enforce accountability, fairness, equity and justice in all departments of the City.
- To promote and embrace diversity, equity, inclusiveness and justice for everyone in our community.
- To listen and learn about how I and our community can do better to embrace and support people who are marginalized and discriminated against.

Through this Proclamation, I submit that residents, employers, places of worship, and elected officials in our community must engage in similar commitments to condemn and stand against racism, discrimination, and hatred and to support peace, love, positivity, and a true unity of spirit.

A PERSONAL MESSAGE TO OUR COMMUNITY:

My heart aches at so many things that our community, our country, our world is going through.

I need to do so much better at confronting actions and speech that divide us as people – and I need your help.

I need to do so much better at creating safe and common ground for dialogue and real actions to implement genuine change – and I need your help.

I need to do better advocating for and creating equity, inclusion, diversity and justice for everyone in our community – and I need your help.



WASHINGTON

I need to do this because it is the right and moral thing to do– not just for our neighborhoods, but also for our country and our global community of humanity – for one another – and I need your help.

Together we need to persevere in these efforts – we need a change in our culture, institutions, and ourselves. We need to practice our thoughts and prayers – we need to take action out of genuine love for our neighbor.

In these times, it can be challenging for us to physically come together – and yet, many of us are yearning to be with our community. To bring us together when we are asked to stay apart, the Monroe Parks Department has created a special heart-shaped trail at Sky River Park.

I invite you to Walk the Heart at Sky River Park, located at 413 Sky River Parkway here in Monroe. My hope is that each of us will take the time as we Walk the Heart to reflect upon what each of us can do better... and what WE can do better as a community.



If you like, use your smart watch or phone to trace your steps, and when you are done, share your heart on your social media page.

I invite you to share your thoughts and reflections with me – because I need your help.

Over the next weeks, I will be working with residents and partners in leadership across our community to identify those actions we can take to do better.

I can do better and working together with your help – we will do better.

A MESSAGE FROM CHIEF JOLLEY:

This past week's events have been sobering for our nation. The horrific act of a group of officers through their actions and inactions that killed George Floyd has left us all in disbelief and outrage. The video, while hard to watch, was viewed by all of our officers with good discussions on not only the actions of one officer but also for those officers that could have stepped in and stopped the tragedy.



Last Friday, our department was notified of a peaceful demonstration that would occur in Monroe the following day, and we are thankful that was exactly what happened. Saturday night, we had Monroe Police Officers respond to Seattle as a part of the North Sound Metro SWAT Team. This same team responded Sunday night to Bellevue. I am very grateful those officers made it home and back to their families safely.

We continue to support our law enforcement partners, working as a team, to

keep peace in our communities. The men and women of the Monroe Police Department are committed to protecting the constitutional rights of all those we serve, equally, fairly, and without bias. I am extremely proud of our officers and the professional manner in which they conduct themselves. Our officers train to the highest standards and best practices in Crisis Intervention Training, de-escalation, use of force, ethics and are fully partnered with and part of the community.

On a personal note, as the father of a young black man, I worry daily for his safety and am angered by the unnecessary death of George Floyd, it did not have to happen. As a Police Chief, I am saddened that the actions by a few officers in Minneapolis have caused suffering across our nation, and sullied this profession. At this critical time, we should all stand together, reach out with support for each other, and collectively denounce the actions that led to / caused this horrible death.

I welcome the dialog that sheds light on police interactions and ways to improve our relations with our diverse community. As your Police Chief, I commit to continuing a police department that is professional, ethical, and strives to serve and protect our community.

SNOHOMISH COUNTY APPROVED TO MOVE TO PHASE 2

I am pleased to share with you that the Governor announced today that Snohomish County, including the City of Monroe, will be moving into Phase 2 in the re-opening of our community and economy, effective immediately. I have given direction to city staff to get information out to businesses and residents about what it means to be moving into Phase 2. Updates will be provided on the City of Monroe [Facebook page](#), and on the city's COVID-19 [Response and Information](#) and [Business Resources](#) websites.



The Monroe Parks Department is excited to reopen park facilities in compliance with Phase 2 guidance. Crews are currently working to reopen all 14 parks facilities in Monroe, and appreciate your patience as this process unfolds. Today the Parks Department is reopening Wiggly Field Dog Park, Board and Blade Skate Park, tennis courts, basketball courts, restrooms, playgrounds, covered shelters (up to the gathering limit), and sports fields for limited practices in compliance with the [Governor's guidelines for sporting activities](#). As our park facilities reopen, please remember that social distancing guidelines are still in effect during Phase 2. The Parks Department has prepared a flyer, in [English](#) and [Spanish](#), which is also being posted physically at each park site, with best practice tips for maintaining social distancing in our city parks.

With today's announcement, businesses that implement social distancing guidelines are allowed to reopen, and small social gatherings and activities may also resume. The Snohomish Health District has published a [blog post](#) and released this [helpful flyer](#) detailing activities approved in Phase 2.

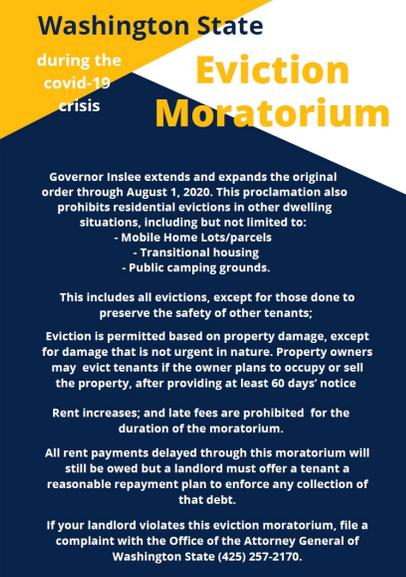
In Phase 2, Monroe businesses will be allowed to reopen dine-in service at

restaurants with 50% capacity, and retailers which implement social distancing guidelines may conduct in-store sales. Additionally, barber shops, hair and nail salons, tattoo parlors and pet groomers can reopen, and places of worship may conduct in-person services, weddings and funerals that align with physical distancing rules and size constraints. Camping and other outdoor recreation activities, such as biking and climbing, can resume with limited group sizes, and nannies, house cleaners and real-estate firms can also return to work.

Businesses reopening in Phase 2 must follow general guidelines in regards to social distancing, face coverings, and signage, and specific guidelines for business sectors. Economic Development Specialist James Palmer has prepared [a newsletter](#) detailing the general guidelines, with links to the industry specific guidelines and tips for business on how to confirm or ascertain maximum capacity details.

RESIDENTIAL EVICTION MORATORIUM EXTENDED

On Tuesday, June 2, Governor Jay Inslee [extended](#) a moratorium on residential evictions through August 1. Under this moratorium, residential evictions are prohibited with a few exceptions. Evictions may still occur in the interest of preserving the safety of other tenants, for property damage that is urgent in nature, or, with 60 days' notice, if the owner intends to personally occupy or sell the property. Rent increases and late fees are prohibited for the duration of the moratorium; rent payments delayed during the moratorium are still owed, and landlords are required to offer tenants reasonable repayment plans. The city has produced a [flyer](#), in both English and Spanish, detailing tenant rights under the moratorium and options if they feel their rights under the moratorium have been violated.



Washington State
during the
covid-19
crisis

Eviction Moratorium

Governor Inslee extends and expands the original order through August 1, 2020. This proclamation also prohibits residential evictions in other dwelling situations, including but not limited to:

- Mobile Home Lots/parcels
- Transitional housing
- Public camping grounds.

This includes all evictions, except for those done to preserve the safety of other tenants;

Eviction is permitted based on property damage, except for damage that is not urgent in nature. Property owners may evict tenants if the owner plans to occupy or sell the property, after providing at least 60 days' notice

Rent increases; and late fees are prohibited for the duration of the moratorium.

All rent payments delayed through this moratorium will still be owed but a landlord must offer a tenant a reasonable repayment plan to enforce any collection of that debt.

If your landlord violates this eviction moratorium, file a complaint with the Office of the Attorney General of Washington State (425) 257-2170.

HAVE YOU COMPLETED YOUR 2020 CENSUS?

Since I last reported on the 2020 Census here in *Monroe This Week*, our city's response rate has increased by approximately 10 percent; but there's still plenty more to go. As of today, Monroe's Self-Response rate sits at 69.1% (we're beating the state, which sits at 65.9%).



The information is used to direct billions of dollars in federal funds to local communities for schools, roads, and other public services. Results are also used to determine the number of seats each state has in Congress. Completing the Census is quick and easy. You can help bring federal funds to Monroe and raise our response rate by completing the [2020 Census](#).

UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The City Council will meet in a Regular Business Meeting on Tuesday, June 9, 2020. The meeting will be held via the Zoom remote meeting platform and participation information will be posted with the June 9 agenda.

[Council Agendas/Minutes](#)

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS



Councilmember
Patsy Cudaback



Councilmember
Kevin Hanford



Councilmember
Ed Davis



Councilmember
Jason Gamble



Councilmember
Jeff Rasmussen



Councilmember
Kirk Scarboro



Councilmember
Heather Rousey

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

