



## NEWS RELEASE

**Contact:** Valerie Lough

**P:** 937-324-7300

**E:** vlough@springfield.ohio.gov

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**SPRINGFIELD, OH (March 16, 2020)**

#### **City of Springfield Declares State of Emergency**

Mayor Warren Copeland and City Manager Bryan Heck announced that as of March 16, 2020, the City of Springfield is under a state of emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Actions taken include:

- All city offices are closed to the public until further notice.
- All regularly scheduled zoning/planning meetings and neighborhood-based community meetings have been suspended. Scheduling of City Commission meetings will be handled on a case-by-case basis.
- City of Springfield employees, with authorization of department heads, are working remotely where necessary, and the City of Springfield encourages all persons, firms, corporations, partnerships and other employers in the City to ask their employees to work remotely as well.
- Callers to 911 will be asked screening questions for both police and fire. As a precaution, people asking for police assistance will be asked to meet the officers outside if possible.
- The Springfield Fire Rescue Division has canceled scheduled events that involve public interaction; this includes fire inspections, tours and civilian ride alongs.
- The Springfield Police Division has closed its records office to the public and has canceled all scheduled events that involve public interactions; this includes the Citizen Police Academy and citizen ride alongs.
- The parks are temporarily suspending all reservations, rentals and program registrations.
- Housing rehabilitation programs will be suspended at this time, unless there is a life safety emergency that needs to be addressed through the Emergency Repair

The state of emergency in the City of Springfield will remain in effect until April 16, 2020, and may be extended or modified at any time if public health conditions so warrant.

You can find updates on the City's response to the COVID-19 pandemic on the City of Springfield website at [springfieldohio.gov](http://springfieldohio.gov).

-30-