



STATE OF THE CITY

Mayor Roy D. Buol Spring 2020

PLEASE NOTE >> This issue was published on April 8, 2020. The accuracy of information was current at that time, but may have since been updated.

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times. It was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness. It was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity...”

While this opening paragraph from *A Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens references a different scenario in world history, the similarities to what we are experiencing as a City and nation today cannot be ignored. Dickens tells of a time of despair and suffering on one hand, and joy and hope on the other.

As I share this Spring 2020 State of the City message, we are gripped by uncertainty of what lies ahead, and an understandable yearning for a return to normalcy as we respond to the Coronavirus(COVID-19) pandemic.

As history has shown, in a crisis, the character of a community is revealed. My City Council colleagues and I are working with City Staff and dozens of community partner organizations and agencies to provide individuals and families, as well as businesses and organizations, the support and resources they need to respond to and recover from the physical, mental, and financial impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Likewise, each of us has a personal responsibility to this community we call “home” and it is simple. Follow the educated direction of our healthcare professionals and medical experts... **“STAY SAFE, STAY HOME.”**

If you must go out for essential supplies, healthcare, or to work, follow the social distancing guidelines to stay six feet apart; plan ahead to minimize shopping trips; do not invite friends into enclosed areas to socialize; wash your hands often and refrain from touching your face. These efforts will help to flatten the curve and limit the spread of the Coronavirus.

We recognize the damage this pandemic is forcing upon our local, regional, and national economies. While the longterm impact is unknown, the short-term impact is already devastating to our small business owners, families, non-profit organizations, and more. One of the greatest sources of encouragement and optimism is that our

citizens are rallying to support those businesses where possible. Meals are being provided to those in need, neighbors are looking out for one another, citizens are supporting impacted restaurants and essential businesses as well as donating to non-profits to help those in need of assistance.

This response represents the ‘unity’ in our community, and for the foreseeable future, we must continue to look for ways to work together because all indications are this will be a longterm, economic recovery effort.

As opportunities become available and conditions permit, I encourage all who are able to support these efforts through volunteering your time or expertise, or donating supplies or financial support.

Please note that due to the City’s utility billing cycle and mailing schedule, this publication is being printed on April 8, yet some citizens may not receive it until the first week of May. Regardless of when you receive this message, please know that your City Council remains focused on your health and wellbeing.

I want to conclude by conveying the collective gratitude of our community to all our healthcare professionals, and to all essential businesses and organizations providing the critical services and goods we all need to survive.

I likewise want to thank our first responders: our emergency dispatch, fire, and police departments and our public health staff. I also want to acknowledge our “unsung heroes” managing our water and wastewater system, trash and recycling, and public transit for providing those critical services, private citizens sewing masks for use by our healthcare providers, as well as City staff and Dubuque’s non-profit community and partner agencies who continue to serve our most vulnerable residents.

These are challenging times, but together we can make the best of them. Even Charles Dickens saw a ray of light ...

“It was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope...” §