

MESSAGE FROM MAYOR ANDY RYDER



Lacey Residents, Businesses, and Visitors,

There is no doubt we are in an unprecedented time in our city's history. For that matter, we are witnessing a worldwide event that will go down in the history books as a defining moment. The level of panic so many people are feeling right now cannot be dismissed. However, I want everyone to know that the City of Lacey and your local government understands your concerns and we are here for you.

For most of us, our daily lives will be disrupted in almost every aspect for at least the next 6 weeks. However, we cannot lose sight of who will be hurt most by this disruption: families, small business owners, their employees, those who have been living on the margins, and those who have always been an "event of any kind" away from losing the small security they might have in their lives. Those who have already found themselves unsheltered, are also at even greater risk than at any other time in our city's history. That is why now – more than ever – we must all focus on the most important asset we have in our community – each other. As I sign an emergency declaration for the City of Lacey, as your Mayor, I will take responsibility to do everything in my power to work with the City Council to help those who will be most affected by this pandemic.

Our local businesses are near and dear to my heart, and right now they need your support more than ever before as we face this crisis. I'm in current conversations with stakeholders on how we can develop a small grant program to support our local small businesses and their employees. As these conversations gain traction, I will be sure to keep you all informed.

You can rest assured, I, and the other councilmembers, will continue to look for ways to reduce the impact of COVID-19. Everyone on Council cares deeply about our great community. Working together, we can get through this crisis.

Andy D. Ryder