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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Mobile County Commission Update on COVID-19

The Mobile County Commission urges citizens to be diligent in their efforts to stay informed and to participate in moderate activities to help reduce the exposure and spread of COVID-19, commonly referred to as the coronavirus.

Among the most effective measures are consistently keeping your hands with sanitizer or hands and face with frequent washing, covering your face when coughing or sneezing, staying home if you experience a fever or difficulty breathing, and checking on family members who are at risk of contracting the virus.

County officials are implementing plans for providing the public access to government resources and continuing those services essential to public health and safety. These meetings are ongoing and will continue.

"We are committed to continuing our service to the public as this situation moves forward," said Commission President Jerry Carl. "The most important thing is that everyone in the community do their part to be calm, stay informed and to recognize that everyone in the community has a responsibility to help reduce the spread of COVID-19."

Commissioner Carl said, "Please be aware of your surroundings and your actions. Also, please take steps to frequently wash your hands and, if you have any flu-like symptoms, please seek medical attention. We are concerned about the health and well-being of Mobile County residents and employees. We will continue to provide county services while maintaining a safe and healthy environment."

IMPORTANT NOTICES REGARDING THE COURTHOUSE, COUNTY OFFICES, PARKS and ANNEXES

- All county offices in Mobile Government Plaza and the Mobile Government Plaza Annex, along with the License and Revenue Commission offices and Mobile County parks will remain open for business until further notice. Additional precautions are being enacted to include a thorough cleaning of offices each night with disinfectant and frequent cleaning of doorknobs and elevator buttons throughout the day. Officials are encouraging the use of online services and requests. Tours of the Plaza have been cancelled until further notice.

- Effective immediately, the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit is suspending all jury trials for March and April 2020. All persons who have been summoned for jury duty during those months should NOT report to jury duty on their assigned week. The court is requesting that only parties involved in cases, being heard in Mobile Government Plaza, attend the proceeding.
- For the Alabama Primary Runoff Election, officials encourage voters to go to your election poll when it is less crowded, maintain distances of 3-to-6 feet between others when possible or vote absentee. Absentee ballot applications are available: (1) on the Mobile County Probate Court's website <https://probate.mobilecountyal.gov/elections.asp> (2) on the Alabama Secretary of State's website www.alabamavotes.gov (3) by mail request send to Post Office Box 7, Mobile, AL 36601 and (4) by calling the Mobile County Absentee Election Manager's Office at (251) 574-6400 to request an application by mail. (Guidelines for election procedures are attached.)
- Operation Clean Sweep scheduled for April 4th has been cancelled and will be rescheduled at a later date.
- Juvenile Court of Mobile County – James T. Strickland Youth Center: There will be limited access to the building in order to ensure adequate social distancing. Detention Center visitation for all residents has been cancelled. Additional phone calls for residents will be scheduled. Probation programs, community service, leadership program, and gardening programs are temporarily suspended. For more information, call (251) 574-1450.
- Mobile County Sheriff's Office is operating as usual.

To stay informed, continue to check the county's website and social media pages for the latest information on county events, cancellations and reschedulings. In the meantime, the Commission recommends that citizens utilize the following websites for the most up-to-date information.

Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) COVID-19:

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/infectiousdiseases/2019-coronavirus.html>

National Association of Counties (NACo) COVID-19:

<https://www.naco.org/resources/coronavirus>

International City-County Management Association (ICMA) COVID-19:

<https://icma.org/coronavirus-resources-plan-and-prepare-now-it-hits-your-community>

National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) COVID-19:

<http://narc.org/coronavirus-2019/>

HHS/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Community Mitigation Strategies Guide:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/community-mitigation-strategy.pdf>

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