



Joint Special Committee on Coronavirus Response
900 NE Court St. NE,
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chairs Arnie Roblan and Paul Holvey

Each of the following items reflects concerns and potential places that the State of Oregon could move on to provide some relief for individuals, businesses, local governments and non-profits in East Multnomah County.

Action Items Requested by East County Stakeholders.

- We need to use the Emergency Broadcast System to get information out or have a similar but discrete system to communicate urgency. If we have the capability currently is there a specific reason why we can't use it? We've all been scrambling to get out information and there is a lot of anxiety when there isn't one consistent source at least providing the guidance regarding state and federal executive action.
- I think it would be wise to lift the plastic bag ban/and or provide paper bags for free. Since reusable bags could be a source for transmission, we might want to put a pause on that prohibition.
- Support for municipal IT infrastructure investment for functional, quality, teleconferencing capabilities. We need to be able to facilitate one on one meetings for staff and conduct full official city meetings remotely to ensure the safety of everyone.
- We should look at putting a pause on the need to visit the DMV or make it a lot easier to do some of that online.
- Much like gasoline and water rationing was done in the past, we should have certain days for running essential errands and grocery shopping using system using the first letter of a last name or last digit on the license number.
- We need to postpone anything that takes cash away from businesses like implementation of the gross receipts tax. So that we can hold onto that cash to pay employees and to buy inventory.
- One thing that would be best addressed on a state level is services for Special Education students. Those students particularly rely on public schools for much more than just instruction, and remote learning will be more difficult. Remote learning also won't address the PT and OT services they might be receiving at school. I have no specific plan, but it would be good to make sure ODE is thinking along the same lines, and that they have the funding to address Special Ed specifically during the quarantine.



- We need equipment and financial resources for public safety services. Our police and fire/ems services are about to be strained more than they've ever been. Oregon's insane system of local revenue heavily constrains the resources we have available to provide these services. Police will be called upon to enforce social distancing, curfew, and quarantine around the clock, in addition to maintaining civil order in a time of unprecedented unrest. We do not have the financial resources to fully meet that challenge.
- Compounding the problem, our fire/ems services are also about to be stretched to the maximum, as first responders during a global pandemic, and one in which our hospital system is likely to fail. Local governments need financial resources for these services expediently.
- Our fire/ems services has some access to masks and protective equipment in the near term but will certainly need more imminently. Second, our police department has little or no access to any of this equipment. Our public safety personnel need protective equipment. Their ranks are already thin, and the more who contract the virus, the likelier it is that we will lose our ability to maintain core staffing.
- State action to protect residents in residential leases during this crisis would be very helpful. Many Gresham residents live month-to-month and have now had employment substantially disrupted. We are acting locally to protect these residents, but welcome state action as well.
- Our small businesses are at grave risk. The present distancing guidelines and closures threaten their viability through this emergency, and the more restrictive closures and actions likely still to come will be even harder. They operate with exceptionally thin margins. We've worked tremendously hard to help entrepreneurs get up and running in Gresham, and to build vibrant small business districts, and we'll lose all of it without state and federal support for these businesses immediately.

Thank you in advance for considering the perspectives of my constituent communities and the people that represent them. They've been coming in a bit slower than expected so I may follow up with addendums as they come to us from the district.

Sincerely,

Representative Chris Gorsek PhD.

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