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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

City of Rochester Announces Suspension of Large Public Events through August 16, 2020 Due to Ongoing Safety Effort

May 22, 2020 – ROCHESTER, MINN. – With health and safety as a top priority and as part of ongoing efforts to reduce the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19), the City of Rochester announced today its decision to suspend all large public events in City facilities and on City grounds through August 16, 2020. This impacts three specific summer events.

Suspended events include:

- Rochester Police Department’s “Safe City Nights” program
- Rochester Civic Music’s “Down by the Riverside” and “forWARD” free concert series
- Rochester Downtown Alliance’s “Thursdays Downtown” street market and music festival

“This decision was not made without great thought and consideration. We continue to maintain a focus on the health and safety of our community. Teammates will work with local organizations to identifying creative opportunities to create and celebrate our community while we navigate the ongoing impacts of this unprecedented pandemic,” shares City Administrator Steve Rymer.

While remaining in compliance with Governor Tim Walz’s [phased “Stay Safe MN” program](#), event organizers are working together to explore ways to bring engaging and creative opportunities to community members in the coming months.

Mayor Kim Norton said, “While it is unfortunate that we will not be able to go forward with these events in their typical format, it is the best decision we can make to keep everyone safe. We know community events add such vibrancy to our community and we are working hard on alternative opportunities.”

The City continues to monitor public health conditions, with their partners at Olmsted County Public Health, and will share further updates for events and activities scheduled after August 16, 2020 as more information becomes available.

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**NOVEL CORONAVIRUS
(COVID-19) PANDEMIC**



EMERGENCY DECLARATIONS

**Stay at Home
Executive Order 20-20**
Effective until May 18

**City of Rochester
Declaration of Local Emergency**
Issued March 17, 2020

**Olmsted County
Public Health Emergency**
Issued March 17, 2020

**Minnesota Peacetime State of
Emergency EM-3453**
Issued March 13, 2020

**National Emergency
Concerning Novel Coronavirus
Disease (COVID-19) Outbreak**
Issued March 13, 2020

LOCAL ACTIVATIONS

**City of Rochester
Emergency Operations Plan**

Joint Information Center (JIC)

**City of Rochester Emergency
Operations Center (EOC)**

EOC STRATEGY
Ensure Community Lifelines

EOC OBJECTIVES
Continuity of Operations
Timely Community and
Teammate Communication
Economic Stability
Community Stability
Healthcare System Support

Lifelines enable the continuous operation of critical government and business functions and are essential to human health and safety or economic security.

ROCHESTERMN.GOV/COVID19