

## **For Immediate Release**

03/16/2020

### **Commissioner of Public Health and Safety and Commissioner of Streets and Public Property Shut Down Hillsboro Public Buildings and Parks Due to CORONA COVID-19 Outbreak.**

*The Commissioners of Health and Safety and the Commissioner of Streets and Public Property Protects the Citizens of Hillsboro, Illinois by Shutting Down All City Owned Parks and Property until April 6<sup>th</sup>.*

HILLSBORO, ILLINOIS (March 16, 2020) With the outbreak of COVID-19 spreading across the United States, the Commissioners of Public Health and Safety, Michael Murphy and Commissioner of Streets and Public Property, Daniel Robbins, decided on March 16, 2020 to shut down all city buildings (with the exception of City Hall), Central Park, the Pawboro 620K-9 Dogpark, Challacombe House, the Sports Complex, Fireman's Clubhouse and the Sherwood Forest Campgrounds until April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020. This action is meant to protect the citizens of Hillsboro, especially those who are elderly, very young or have an underlying health condition that makes them vulnerable to the effects of COVID-19.

The Commissioners believe these actions will slow the spread of the virus in Hillsboro. Currently, COVID-10 has infected 169,387 worldwide and killed 6,513, according to the latest updates from the Center for Systems Science and Engineering at John Hopkins University.

“In the interest of public health and safety, all public buildings with the exception of City Hall will be closed until April 6<sup>th</sup>. This closure includes the Pawsboro 620 K-9 Dog Park, the Sports Complex, Sherwood Forest Campground, Challacombe House, and Fireman's Clubhouse,” stated Daniel Robbins, Commissioner of Streets and Public Safety, “We are following the lead of Governor Pritzker who shut down all state public lands this past weekend.”

Citizens are urged to please consider their vulnerable neighbors by not venturing out unless it is absolutely necessary. This is especially true if they are displaying symptoms of COVID-19 which include; runny nose, sore throat, cough, aches, fever and in extreme cases, difficulty with breathing. If they are experiencing shortness of breath along with the other symptoms, people are encouraged to seek medical care and testing.

“We want everyone to practice self-restraint and compassion for their neighbors during this time. Please avoid public spaces, wash your hands, practice social distancing, and please do not “panic buy” items from area supermarkets, convenience stores, and area pharmacies. The City Council, the Police Chief and other area leaders continue to monitor the rapidly developing situation and how it affects our citizens. Everyone is working hard to keep the citizens of Hillsboro safe and healthy,” stated Michael Murphy, Commissioner of Public Health and Safety.

The city of Hillsboro, Illinois is a town of 6,207 people and the seat of Montgomery County. Hillsboro is committed to making a sustainable community that encourages and develops an atmosphere of human flourishing for all our citizens. The town seeks to develop a locally based economy, ensure an equitable quality of life, and protect the natural environment that surrounds the city.

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