

Pledge 7:05

Roll Call – Alice (does not count for official attendance)

No report from police, fire, library

Alfred, Dept. of Neighborhoods – Bulk pickup can still be scheduled

All April Area Commission meetings have been cancelled.

Meals on Wheels will help seniors who are isolated and don't have enough food.

614-278-3130

Some of the changes to Ohio's new stay-at-home order as of the April NCC Meeting:

- Retail establishments must set a number of people allowed inside at one time
- Anyone traveling to Ohio is asked to quarantine for 14 days
- Weddings and funerals will not be regulated
- Church is exempt
- Campgrounds are closed
- Swimming pools are closed
- Organized sports, day camps are prohibited

Sandra Lopez - City of Columbus

Sandra congratulated our group on doing the work to meet by video and phone. Also we are lucky to be healthy and present, as there is a lot of grief in the country.

The Governor has extended the stay at home order. We are asking everyone to stay home as much as you can. If you have to go out, use gloves and masks.

At the store the other day, I saw a mom and she put a mask on her and her child, and gloves, but the child was touching everything. The gloves aren't going to do anything if you are touching a public surface and then touching your wallet and credit card or your face.

City officials are working from home. This is our 4th week. We are trying to reach out and be helpful and flexible.

If you are not getting a quick response, or you are getting voice mail. 311 is backed up because staff are working from home and part time, so it's better to use the Columbus Government app or by emailing 311@columbus.gov.

Refuse is working. If they are picking up at a strange time, don't worry. They are still running, there are just changes.

On the City website, we are posting daily with resources.

There are a lot of people who have lost their jobs and are having difficulty paying bills. We are posting resources for those things on Columbus.Gov

We are also making an effort to translate information as fast as we can for our New American communities. The information on the website is in seven languages. As you know a lot of these communities are not reading the newspaper every day or tuning into the national news. Social media has been effective, but we need to get them reliable information. There is an increase in fake news and scams.

If you see anything that is suspicious, refer that to the Ohio Attorney General's office. They have an easy way to report any scam that is happening, and you can do it anonymously.

Two things we are seeing are fake job postings. They are trying to email and get your contact information (SSN, birthdate, address) to use your credit. Also people selling coronavirus testing at home or masks. Be mindful but also tell your parents and elderly people around you not to buy things from sources they don't trust.

We are putting resources for small businesses, pointing people to the new SBA loans and grants.

I am also personally asking our civic associations to make an effort to call people. If you have a calling tree, activate it and check in on people. Reach out to people who may be feeling lonely or isolated or depressed. I worry we will see an increase in suicide rate. We saw an increasing number of drug overdose deaths over the weekend. This is a great opportunity for leaders like yourself to reach out and call people. Encourage people to call somebody else.

How we deal with this is on us. Most of us are the lucky ones. We are still home, will food and a roof over our heads. Some of you know that my sister and her husband are both doctors in New York City. Reach out, keep an eye on your neighbors.

Columbus Public Health 614-645-1619 – They have interpreting services and can answer questions about physical and mental health. 7a to 8p every day.

One thing that came up was people calling 911 to report people being outside. You don't need to do that. The police are not out to catch people being outside. If you see people gathering in large numbers or at a party, we would like to know that. But if someone is walking their dog or riding their bike, we actually encourage that. Parks and trails are open. Go outside and get exercise. Go for a walk with your family. But don't police your neighborhoods.

If you feel unsafe, please call the police. But don't call them just to tattle on your neighbors. However if you see or hear of a case where someone is being forced to work, such as at a salon that is not allowed to be open, but the employer is still making their staff come in. If you notice a business that is supposed to be closed and it is open, you can report that to Public Health 614-645-1519.

1. **COVID-19 Business Violation/Noncompliance**
 - a. This Service Request is to be used for citizen reports on any business, organization or such believed to be violating and/or noncompliant with Ohio's Stay-At-Home orders.

2. **COVID-19 General Comments/Questions/Concerns**
 - a. This Service Request is to be used for any other COVID-19 issue/concern/questions **EXCEPT** reports of noncompliance with Ohio's Stay-At-Home orders

We have been advised by Police that if there are cases where gatherings are happening that are NOT business related; ie at the park parties, kids playing in groups in neighborhood, they would want to call non-emergency police at 614-645-4545 while it is happening to report. Depending on the severity of each issue and staffing of course, they will dispatch police out.

Code enforcement is not sending people to homes right now, except for emergencies.

We are trying to update information online as fast as we can. If you are on another commission and you are trying to figure out if a meeting is happening, email me (Sandra) or the chair of the group and ask. We are not able to update every single thing. The priority for information is pandemic information. Other meeting dates, etc. may require you to reach out to someone rather than relying on the website.

The court system is closed temporarily for 60 days. If you are aware of an eviction case, it's not going to go anywhere. If you are able to pay your rent, please do so. If you are struggling, we have resources on our website.

Councilmember Remy: The city has a robust small business guide at [Columbus.gov/covid-19](https://columbus.gov/covid-19) The Paycheck Protection Program, etc., are federal but our team will help you navigate those. Make sure you understand them before you apply because applying for some will rule out your eligibility for others. Henry Golatt runs that department at 614-645-1984.

We are grateful to Sandra and Alfred and others to keep people connected and in communication with the city.

Refuse is up 25% because people are working from home and all the trash is being generated at home. It's staggering the amount of illegal dumping they've collected this month. Refuse is full speed ahead.

All the while, our city leaders are charged with looking ahead at the economy. Cincinnati has already laid off a lot of city workers. We are in a better position, but we want to minimize the impact.

Personally I'm trying to do things in the safest way possible, and I know you all are, too.

Alicia:

Most of what had been planned for Elevate Northland and NCC banquet are postponed and we will announce plans as we learn when the stay-home order is lifted.

Award Nominations are still being accepted. We will still issue awards even if we ultimately can't have the banquet.

Development Meeting/Dave Paul:

We did not meet in March.

We are planning a virtual meeting 4/29. I'll be doing a practice meeting with the applicants to get them used to Zoom. We are asking them to submit early to quarantine the materials and to have more time to consider them. We will be having a virtual meeting this month and possibly May and June.

We had an informal session of the Committee and members still wanted to have hard copies. But there is nothing to report for this month.

5G poles. There is a separate process, not a zoning process, for these companies to put their equipment in the right of way. We can assume they are going to be everywhere. The key to the 5G network is that they are more dense. These don't need guy wires. They aren't tall.

Sandra: That's a state issue. The city doesn't even have much say in it. The university district of Columbus right now is going through that process and the permits are issued by the state of Ohio.

The challenge is they don't even tell us they are coming and doing about it.

NextDoor Map – Alice – There is a Help Map that has been added to the NextDoor app, where people can posts requests for help or the ability to provide help.

Mary – Was there really a case of an employee at the Morse Rd Kroger having the virus? Kroger corporate said it was a hoax. Dave Paul: Kroger did confirm in a press report that they had an employee who was infected and that they took pains to disinfect the store.

Alicia – Appreciates everyone who tuned in.
Stay healthy and stay safe!

Meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.