**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**City of Decatur Municipal Government Update – Monday, March 23**

Despite being on a modified administrative staffing plan, the City of Decatur will continue to serve its residents, as we do each and every day.

**Severe Weather Plan**

We first want to make our community aware of the severe weather threat we’re monitoring for Tuesday evening.

In the event that a tornado watch is issued for Decatur, both Decatur High School and Austin High School will be opened as secure shelters and staffed by the Decatur Police Department.

The Alabama Department of Public Health says -- “At this time, your first priority should be to protect yourself from a potential tornado. If a warning is issued for our area, you are more likely to be affected by the tornado than the virus.”

Now is the time to review your inclement weather plan.

**City Operations**

Trash collection will continue as normal, on the regular scheduled dates and routes. Recycling curbside is temporarily suspended – as soon as we know when services will resume, we’ll let you know.

If you plan on cutting the grass while you’re working from home, please put any grass clippings in the yard waste bin for collection – at this time, we ask that you put brush and large debris out for collection at a later date.

The Decatur Police Department and Decatur Fire & Rescue will continue responding to calls and emergencies.

Residents who need a non-emergency report filed with the Decatur Police Department may call (256) 341-4600, and an officer will assist them over the phone.

Point Mallard Campground is still open at this time.

Vendors, businesses, and contractors may still access City Hall by appointment. For a list of departmental contacts and phone numbers, please visit DecaturAlabamaUSA.com.

**Health & Safety Precautions**

At this time, Alabama has 138 confirmed cases of COVID-19. Morgan County does not have any confirmed cases at this time.

We want to remind residents to:

* Stay home and practice social distancing measures to the highest ability possible
* Continue practicing everyday preventive actions. Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue and wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
* Honor the mandatory state health orders issued last week by avoiding large gatherings of 25 or more individuals

**Additional Information**

Decatur is a diverse community of strong character and friendly spirits. It is in unprecedented times like these that we are reminded of the values of sincerity, kindness, and compassion that have built and sustained our community for 200 years.

If you are healthy and able, check on your elderly neighbors. Help where you can – even if it’s just lending an ear for a quick phone call. Pick up a meal to support a local business. Buy a gift card from your favorite independent retail store.

It is an honor to serve as your Mayor. If you have questions, call us at City Hall. We are here to support one another, now and always.

Join me again on Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. for another municipal update. Until then, be well, be safe, and be kind.