

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **CITY OF TULARE – COVID-19 CITY SERVICES UPDATE**

City of Tulare Emergency Operations Center Director Luis Nevarez, in conformance with guidance provided by the Federal Centers for Disease Control, and in cooperation with the City Manager, has directed that a series of actions be taken citywide to ensure that homeless residents have access to adequate washing and restroom facilities.

The City has made the difficult decision to temporarily close all park restroom facilities. These facilities are cleaned daily, however, with the speed of which the COVID-19 virus can be transmitted, it is in the public's best interest to not share these restroom facilities. While the permanent restrooms are unavailable, temporary portable restroom facilities near existing homeless encampments will be provided. The facilities will be stocked with soap, clean water, and their placement will ensure proper spacing between individuals. These measures will assist in the reduction of potential virus transmission. Accordingly, several sanitation stations will be located near known homeless encampments within the City of Tulare beginning on Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>.

In addition to the closure of restrooms, all playgrounds at the City's parks are now closed as well. The City's parks, open spaces and trails remain open but we are asking the public to please practice physical distancing when visiting these facilities, staying six feet apart in an effort to mitigate the COVID-19 pandemic.

Tulare City leadership continues to appreciate the patience and understanding of our citizens. Tulare is a strong and resilient community. Tulare Mayor, Jose Sigala said, *"I appreciate the community taking all of the recommendations and directives in a serious manner. I realize the difficult times and challenges all of us are facing but we must work together to assure the safety of our community. I am proud of all of our city leadership including our first responders for stepping up and protecting our residents"*

The City of Tulare would like to remind everyone to continue to follow the CDC and Tulare County HHS guidelines for slowing and stopping virus transmission. Wash your hands frequently during the day, avoid touching your face, and stay home if you are feeling ill. By everyone doing their part to stay home and limit outings, we can protect ourselves and our community.