COVID-19 call to city leaders March 20, 2020

- LOC’s Mike Cully – welcome and ground rules, comments
- Leah Horner – Governor Kate Brown’s office
- Danna Drum – OHA
- Sonya McCormick – OEM
- Mayor Steve Callaway – Oregon Mayors Association
- Patrick Priest – CEO, CityCounty Insurance Services
- Q & A

- Mike Cully – welcome and ground rules,
  - Cully thanked all the city leaders on the call for their partnership and commitment to the safety and wellbeing of each of their perspective communities. He also acknowledged and applauded Governor Kate Brown and her office for timely responses to everything that is coming at them and the many decisions that the governor has had to make. Cully informed callers that he is part of the Coronavirus Economic Advisory Council which included dedicated and committed individuals working together to find answers.
  - LOC provided testimony on your behalf at the Capitol this week, and the topics were: public meetings regarding noticing requirements and public participation with budgets, land use in allowing written comments. Several other items were under review. At the federal level, the discussion revolved around: FEMA reimbursement of PPE equipment as related to the pandemic, and SBA Loans for small businesses.
  - Lastly, Cully warned everyone about the amount of misinformation that is out there and to please seek out reliable resources such as the information presented today.

- Leah Horner – Governor Kate Brown’s office
  - Horner thanked the LOC and all the efforts that LOC has made to get the word out regarding this pandemic.
  - She informed the group that ultimately the goal here is to weigh the pros and cons and provide the best decisions possible. Horner went on to say her office is working diligently to put a process together that would address the statutory changes that are necessary during this time of uncertainty.

- Sonya McCormick – OEM
  - McCormick informed the group that the National Business Emergency Operation Center operated by FEMA has been activated. FEMA provides a dashboard that shares information on what’s going on with the outbreak. The dashboard has a chat feature that businesses can share and coordinate information regarding the virus. There is an essential critical worker guide that’s available at www.cisa.gov. McCormick also said she met with national and regional grocers to connect and collaborate. The primary concerns for this group were noise and curfew waivers. They’re working diligently to resupply and restock.
  - McCormick informed the group of several other groups OEM is working with: the state Employment Division, addressing website issues; Business Labor and Industry, regarding employee layoffs; and collecting SBA worksheets needed to secure a declaration for Oregon for
the Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program. Once a declaration is made, the governor’s regional team will be notified; any additional sheets gathered are important to keep as the team will reach out to small businesses. McCormick finished with sympathy to everyone dealing with issues during this pandemic.

- McCormick then introduced Steven Richardson with Business Oregon and stated he’s been our lead here in the Emergency Coordination Center and working on several different projects.
- Richardson reported that business have contacted him regarding a change within their business model to help with the crisis. These businesses want to manufacture PPE and hand sanitizer to help with the growing need. Currently they’re working on a mechanism to be able to approve such product for distribution.
- Business Oregon’s website has a wealth of information to help businesses and their employees navigate this situation.

- Danna Drum, Oregon Health Authority
- The Oregon Health Authority website is updated each day by midday, and people can sign up for a newsletter with daily information directly related to COVID-19. Drum went on to state that anyone who is sick and would normally seek medical attention is asked to please call ahead and inform their primary care or emergency personnel that they are coming in - do not just show up. If symptoms are mild, stay home if possible and phone your doctor along with monitoring your symptoms. If you need emergency care get it but call ahead. The point here is to flatten the curve, to not infect our most vulnerable and to not overwhelm the medical system.

- Mayor Steve Callaway – Oregon Mayors Association
- Stated that one of the most important things a city can do is to step into the gap locally while waiting for state and federal assistance. This can be done by looking into the city budget and identifying items that have been suspended, such as travel, events, festivals and redirecting those funds to food bags and food pantries or rental assistance. Callaway suggested if your city has large reserves it could provide loan or grant opportunities because the normal family will find it hard to come up with even $500.00 to help in an emergency. Additionally, if your community has a jail it would be particularly helpful and useful to know who is being released because citizens will enquire later. Think outside the box and contact landlords if you have connections, talk to them about lowering rental costs this is also a perfect opportunity to pay back all of those businesses who have donated over the years to various causes and finally Red Cross is in need of blood help where you can.

- Patrick Priest – CEO, CityCounty Insurance Services
- Informed the callers of the various programs available through CIS; Risk Management Team has dedicated a page on their website to answer questions related to COVID-19 and the losses that your community might be involved with. Dave Nelson is working diligently to keep up on jails coverage and closures and the specifics related to those issues. The CIS Pre-loss team is working on employment related issues and policy adjustments as needed. They are putting together a quick fact guides to help navigate all the federal mandates and the Oregon Family Leave Act. CIS’ goal is to help its members navigate through all the property liability, workers compensation issues during this pandemic event. In addition, CIS has come up with a $1000 grant program to assist cities with cleanup efforts. All the information regarding this call can be found at www.orcities.org
**Q&A Section**

- **Bruce Coleman, City of Sherwood Economic Development:** We have a military firm here in Sherwood that is asking us **how the list will be developed** in terms of if there was a shelter in place, order given. And I wanted to see if certain kinds of businesses that produce for the military and also farming equipment might be included as an exempt business type.

- **Leah Horner, Governor’s Office:** We are following the guidance that has come from the Department of Homeland Security. They've posted and I’m happy to share this link with anybody. They have identified critical infrastructure. And then we're also kind of cross walking that with what the other cities and counties have done, and those sectors are being taken into consideration on that list.

- **Unknown Caller:** My question is regarding water and sewer. If our staff were to get sick, will there be any help from the state in perhaps getting sewer plant or water plant operators?

- **Danna Drum, Oregon Health Authority:** That's something that you would work on through your county emergency manager, who would then work with the Office of Emergency Management to address those kinds of needs.

- **Kyle Palmer, Mayor of Silverton:** My question is for the governor’s office. I also represent the veterinary community, and there's some ambiguity about the recent executive order in terms of whether “procedures” means surgeries or anesthetize procedures or any time we would use PPE, including exam gloves, which is virtually every appointment. We're also concerned or at least want to know how if there's any thought to whether veterinary clinics will be on the essential list if it does come to be a shelter in place order.

- **Leah Horner - Thank you, veterinarians are something that we have been talking a lot about and what that what that looks like. I believe that there has also been a request for them to be added to the essential list. And there is the guidance on that is differing from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. So, we're still working through that.**

- **Kyle Palmer continued:** What constitutes a surplus of PPE? And we also have an emergency department in our hospital, so we project a need for our own PPE and we’re not sure where to draw the line of what we can contribute or what we need to have available for our own use should we still be in operation.

- **Leah Horner - I don’t have a good answer on what that definition is right now, but I will follow up on that.**

- **Question from Mayor Beth Wytoski of Dayton:** She wants to know if Oregon is submitting a waiver for statewide standardized tests like Washington and California have done.

- **Danna Drum, OHA - I will need to check with you on that. We do have someone working closely with the Oregon Department of Education. So, I will try to get an answer.**
• **Unknown Caller:** I am wondering about eviction, like no eviction during this time and how that's going to affect landlords and what we're going to do to help them. Because obviously there are some landlords that don't need assistance, but then there are other ones that use that money either to pay their own bills or to pay their own mortgages for that property.

• **Leah Horner** - We are looking at what that looks like for landlords and through the banks as well. I don't have a clear answer on that, but that is definitely something that we're also looking into for landlords, both on the commercial and on the real estate side.

• **Nick Green, John Day City Manager:** I heard a comment about statutory limits for land use applications. I'm wondering if the state is considered considering extending deadlines for statements of economic interest and budgeting. And I hadn't heard previously if that was the case or not.

• **Leah Horner** - we're looking at all of those pieces. If there are others that we haven't considered, please let us know. But we're taking a look at all of those.