

**City of Keene**  
**New Hampshire**

**April 9, 2020**

**TO:** Keene City Council  
**FROM:** Mayor George Hansel  
**RE:** FOR PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION – COVID-19 update

*Complimentary Parking Clarification:*

Parking at the on-street meters in downtown Keene continues to be complimentary until May 4<sup>th</sup> to allow for curbside pickup and other downtown business activities. The 2-hour limit has also been relaxed to a 3-hour limit and will be enforced. Fees and time limits in the garages and lots have not changed and will continue to be enforced for the benefit of employees working in or near downtown. Parking staff will continue to monitor meters and write tickets only when necessary in fairness to all downtown businesses and visitors.

*Transfer Station:*

Despite a fire on Wednesday night in one of the Transfer Station buildings, the facility will be open during normal hours. The upper level pad that is typically used for construction and demolition recycling will be used for all transfer station activities while the fire damage to the building is being evaluated and repaired.

*Statewide Economic Relief Efforts:*

On Monday, Governor Chris Sununu sent a letter to Senate President Donna Soucy and House Speaker Steve Shurtleff outlining the formation of the Governor's Office for Emergency Relief and Recovery (GOFERR). This office will be charged with the investment and oversight of COVID19 relief and stimulus funds provided to New Hampshire by the federal government. The office will manage the accounting, auditing, legal, and IT requirements surrounding these investments and will ensure transparency and accountability metrics to the citizens of New Hampshire for all relief and stimulus efforts.

*Local Economic Relief Efforts:*

We have initiated conversations, both internally and with our valuable community partners, to start conceptualizing what Keene's economic recovery will look like. This includes reimbursement for funds that have been used to bolster emergency preparedness, loss of revenue and tourism in our downtown, Infrastructure and reinvestment projects, and workforce development initiatives.

*Resources for Nonprofits:*

A new resource has been announced to support for NH nonprofits during the COVID-19 emergency. Up to \$100,000 is available for working capital, equipment purchases and programming expenses. More information is available on the NH [CDFA website](#). This NH Nonprofit support fund will be funded through:

- Up to \$1,000,000 in donations from businesses in exchange for Tax Credits (75% State Tax Credit on BET and BPT). For more information, see the Tax Credit Program Overview.

- At least \$500,000 in flexible loan funds from the Community Development Finance Authority (CDFA) and the Business Finance Authority (BFA).

*Public Outreach:*

The public is encouraged to participate in the Mayor's Virtual Town Halls daily, Monday-Friday at 8am. Credentials for the Zoom meeting change daily and can be found by visiting: [www.notifykeene.com](http://www.notifykeene.com). Additionally, participants can call in via telephone by dialing 603-766-5646 and using the participant code: 981441.

- Guest for Monday, April 13<sup>th</sup> – Senator Jay Kahn