PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 25, 2020

City Facilities to Close to the Public, Additional COVID-19 Pandemic Precautions

In light of the ongoing coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic, the City of Taneytown is taking additional precautions to help slow the spread of the virus. To avoid the typical surge in walk in business after water and sewer bills are mailed, and better promote social distancing requirements, as of 4:00 PM March 25, 2020 The **Taneytown Police Department at 120 East Baltimore Street will be closed to the public** until further notice. Services related to the Police Department will continue following the department's standard after hours protocols, and there will be no changes as to how officers are dispatched when needed. Residents may continue to call (410) 751-1150 as always to reach the department, and as is the case currently, calls will be answered in house between 7:30 AM and 4:00 PM, with after-hours calls routed to the Maryland State Police. Administrative functions currently operating in the building will continue with the exception of in person services. Payments for water and sewer bills may be mailed, placed in the City Office drop box at 17 East Baltimore Street or paid online as may be done currently. Other payments, applications or other correspondence may be mailed to 17 East Baltimore Street, Taneytown MD 21787 or placed in the drop box at the City Office. At this time all City departments continue to operate, and staff can be reached by telephone or email. The City will continue to provide essential services as we work through this challenging time.

As an additional effort to slow the spread of the virus, and safeguard the health and wellbeing of our citizens, the City is **closing all playgrounds** in our public parks including the **Skate Park** at THS Park, effective 4:00 p.m. Wednesday, March 25, 2020. According to the National Institutes of Health, COVID-19 can live on certain surfaces for three days, possibly longer. The City cannot sanitize playground equipment on a constant and instantaneous basis, nor can it ensure proper physical distancing in its playgrounds.

The City of Taneytown parks remain open. Those visiting City parks are encouraged to practice proper hygiene and follow the recommended 6-foot physical distancing guideline. In accordance with Governor Hogan's Executive Order, park users are prohibited from gathering in places where more than 10 persons are present.

While exercise that adheres to the 6-foot physical distancing guideline and no-more-than-10-persons-gathering requirement is permitted, organized team sports (such as baseball, basketball, football, softball, and soccer) are not permitted in our parks at this time.

The City of Taneytown strives to ensure the safety of its community at all times, but especially during this crisis as we respond to the ongoing concerns of keeping our population healthy. We know that our parks and outdoor spaces can offer, at this time perhaps more than any other, essential resources for health and wellness - a connection to the outdoors and green space as well as opportunities for physical activity which studies demonstrate reduces stress and improves mental health. We believe that our parks, trails and open

spaces can continue to be used in a safe manner that allows people to enjoy the mental and physical health benefits these spaces provide.

When contemplating a visit to one of our parks, we ask that those who do so act responsibly with regards to CDC and State of Maryland guidelines to prevent the spread of infectious diseases. Slowing the spread of novel coronavirus is everyone's responsibility. For high-risk populations, such as the elderly and people with underlying conditions, we ask that they take extra precautions and follow CDC guidance for those at higher risk of serious illness.

Where and when it is possible to adhere to this guidance, outdoor spaces will remain open to the public. We will continue to monitor the situation and will respond accordingly should the State of Maryland issue additional mandates.

Answers to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about COVID-19 can be found at:
https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/Documents/coronavirus_FAQ.pdf.