



FULL LIFE. FULL FORWARD.  
**FLORENCE**  
SOUTH CAROLINA

***For Immediate Release – March 17th, 2020***

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**FLORENCE, SC** – The City of Florence announces a modified operations schedule to protect its employees and citizens by minimizing opportunities to spread COVID-19 in our community.

Taking into consideration recommendations released by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) on social distancing, and measures taken across the nation to include travel bans, school closures, quarantines and event cancellations, the City is modifying its operations schedule. City officials will continue to monitor the impact and need of such restrictions, and under the direction of the CDC and directives from the South Carolina Governor's Office will re-evaluate these actions as circumstances change.

The City requests that customers call prior to visiting city facilities to determine if you can be assisted by phone, e-mail, etc.

Please see below for details regarding closings and cancellations related to City facilities and services.

**CITY CENTER:**

**City Administration (City Manager's Office/Finance/Human Resources):**

The Human Resources Department is closed to the public. All hiring will be suspended through June 30, 2020.

The City of Florence Employee Wellness Program's annual Flo-Town 5K will be postponed to a later date.

**City Court:**

Under the direction of the SC Supreme Court, the City of Florence Municipal Court will **NOT** hold jury trials or morning court (traffic and criminal) until further notice.

**Water Billing:**

The Utility Finance Department will be open to the public; however, it is **STRONGLY** encouraged to use alternative methods for payment.

Water bills may be paid:

- Over the phone: 1-888-287-4268 or 843-665-3155 and following the prompts.
- By drop box located in the City Center parking lot at 324 W. Evans Street (checks and money orders only).
- Online at: <http://www.cityofflorence.com/departments/finance/utilities>
- By Mail: Utility Finance Division, 324 W. Evans Street, Florence, SC 29501 (checks and money orders only).
- Automatic Bank Draft: <http://www.cityofflorence.com/departments/finance/water/forms.aspx>
- Bank transfer through a bank or financial institution's bill payment software. Please be sure to include the complete fourteen-digit account number (including the dash).

## **Police:**

Cancellations/Postponements:

- Citizen's Police Academy
- Citizen's Advisory Committee meetings
- Police Explorer Scouting Program

The City Police Department is suspending assistance and coverage of all Special Road Events (Road races, etc.) until further notice.

## **Fire:**

ALL Fire stations are closed to the public, and at this time fire inspections are being suspended until further notice.

Cancellation:

- ALL public education activities are cancelled until further notice

## **Public Works:**

At this time, services provided by the Public Works department will operate on regular schedule, but service schedules may be modified if deemed necessary.

## **Utilities:**

At this time, services provided by the Utilities department will operate on regular schedule, but service schedules may be modified if deemed necessary.

## **Recreation:**

Effective immediately, ALL City of Florence Recreation Services Department community centers will be closed until further notice. This includes ALL programs, classes, and rentals. All after school programs at the following facilities are cancelled until further notice:

- Barnes Street Activity Center
- Dr. Iola Jones Park Community Center
- Levy Park Youth Center
- Maple Park Community Center
- Northwest Park Community Center

Also, please note the following cancellations/postponements until further notice:

- Spring Break Camps (April 6-9, 2020) are cancelled. Staff will notify registered families directly, and all registrants will receive a full refund.
- Senior trips/activities

- Community center reservations/permits
- ALL special events planned leading up to May 15, 2020

**Athletics:**

The City of Florence will cancel or postpone ALL Athletic programs to include games and practices through April 12, 2020.

Facility Closings through April 12, 2020:

- Pearl Moore Basketball Center
- Florence Gymnastics Center

All Sports Tourism Events & Tournaments scheduled at the following locations are cancelled through May 15, 2020:

- Pearl Moore Basketball Center
- Florence Tennis Center
- Florence Soccer Complex
- Freedom Florence

The City of Florence Tennis Center will remain open at this time; however, all participants are strongly encouraged to practice appropriate social distancing.

**Planning, Research & Development/Business License/Building Permits:**

ALL bus tours and community meetings associated with the 10 year re-write of the City's Comprehensive Plan are postponed to a later date.

The Planning, Business License and Building Departments will remain open to the public; however, access will be restricted to customers with business directly related to the purchase of zoning compliance, business licenses and building permits.

**Downtown Development:**

ALL special events and festivals scheduled to take place in downtown public plazas and on public roadways are cancelled or postponed until May 15, 2020. Cancelled or postponed special events include:

- Eastern SC Mustang Club Regional Car Show (postponed to August, 2020)
- Florence Wine and Food Festival (postponed to June, 2020)
- Florence After Five (April Event cancelled)
- Victors Music in Courtyard (April Event postponed)
- Habitat for Humanity Cinco de Mayo (postponed to late May, 2020)

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