



# COVID-19

## UPDATES & GUIDANCE

### **Summary** (updates highlighted in yellow)

**Date: Friday, April 10, 2020**

**Number of confirmed cases in Prince George's County – 1,716**

**Number of confirmed cases in Maryland – 6,968 (+783 since yesterday)**

### **Stay Home and Stay Safe**

This week, we have seen a dramatic increase in the numbers of positive cases being reported in our state and particularly in Prince George's County. These numbers would be much higher if not for widespread adherence to the Stay at Home and Social Distancing orders. Many of us would like to be gathering with friends and family this weekend, but now is not the time to relax your vigilant efforts to protect yourself and to stop the spread of the disease. Stay home and stay safe. Your efforts are making a difference!

### **Hotspot**

On April 7, Governor Hogan announced that the White House and federal officials have now designated the Baltimore-Washington corridor as an emerging hotspot because of the concentration of cases here. This is not a reason for panic, but a confirmation that social distancing practices and the use of cloth masks are vitally important at this time. The designation will help to secure more resources for the region.

### **Q & A (from Virtual Town Hall)**

#### **Have you considered a program for telework for employees to keep the City running?**

Yes, many City employees are teleworking and continuing to do their jobs remotely during this health emergency. For those who can't work from home, the city has instituted social distancing and alternate work schedules where possible. However, there are many employees, such as police officers and solid waste workers who provide essential services and must do their jobs in the field. The City is working to protect these dedicated workers with protective equipment and with modifications to service to limit their interactions and potential exposure to those who may have COVID-19.

### **Make Sure Bowie Counts; Complete Your Census!**

The COVID-19 pandemic is distracting from the important task of making sure that everyone is counted in this year's census. Have you completed your census form yet? Filling out the form takes less than 10 minutes and it is a simple, but very crucial means of ensuring that Bowie and Prince George's County get their share of federal monies in the future. Also, accurate population numbers are critically important for the allocation of resources during healthcare emergencies, such as the current one. Look for mailings from the Census Bureau on how to complete your census online.

## City Council Begins Budget Deliberations Monday, April 13

One of the City Council's most important responsibilities is to review and approve an annual budget. This year's process will be a little different, but it will continue on schedule so that the government can continue to operate and provide services. Some councilmembers and staff will participate in the meetings remotely to ensure that social distancing is maintained.

While the public cannot attend Council meetings and budget worksessions in person, they can watch them live on the Bowie government channel (*FIOS 10/Comcast 71 & 996*) or on the city website ([www.cityofbowie.org/viewmeetings](http://www.cityofbowie.org/viewmeetings)). The videos can also be viewed afterwards on Youtube or the city website. Members of the public can submit comments for the Citizen Participation portion of Regular Meetings and can submit testimony for budget public hearings via text or email. Email [cityclerk@cityofbowie.org](mailto:cityclerk@cityofbowie.org) or text 240-335-3282. (Comments are not part accepted for worksessions.)

### ***FY 2021 Budget Deliberation Schedule:***

Mon., April 13	Budget Introduction, <b>Budget Public Hearing #1</b> , Budget Worksession #1
Mon., April 20	Budget Worksession #2 – Public Works Department, Water and Sewer Fund
Mon. April 27	Budget Worksession #3 – Department of Community Services
Wed., April 29	Budget Worksession #4– City Manager's Offices, Police Department, Finance Department and Nondepartmental
Mon., May 4	<b>Public Hearing #2</b> on FY 2021 Budget, CIP and Constant Yield Tax Rate
Mon., May 11	<u>Budget Worksession #5</u> – Department of Planning & Community Development, Information Technology, Equipment Acquisition and Replacement Fund, General Fund Summaries, Appendix (including Plan of Compensation), Wrap-up.
Mon., May 18	Adoption FY 2021 Budget and CIP

The proposed budget may be viewed at [www.cityofbowie.org/131/Budget-Documents](http://www.cityofbowie.org/131/Budget-Documents). Comments must be received by 7 p.m. on the day of the City Council meeting. Questions regarding the proposed budget may be directed to the Finance Department at 301-809-3023. All meetings begin at 8 p.m.

## **TRASH & RECYCLING CHANGES**

- Trash must be placed in trash cans or closed bags. No loose trash or large items will be picked up.
- All recycling must be in recycling bins or carts. No loose items will be picked up.
- No special pickups
- Yard waste is being collected