
From: Paula Rhodes <prhodes@invictusdev.com>
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2020 4:42:53 PM
To: Marisa Button <Marisa.Button@floridahousing.org>
Subject: COVID-19 and Pending RFAs

Good afternoon, Marisa. I hope all is well with you. I received an email from Hillsborough County Commissioner Sandra Murman regarding the cancellation of various public hearings, including zoning and planning that were scheduled to occur between now and April 13th (see attached, the contents of which are copied below with the relevant portion highlighted). I don't know whether other jurisdictions are taking this step but if they have not, they may soon. In addition, the City of Tampa and the City of Orlando have sent notices regarding reduced staffing and slower turnaround on pending items. While changes to the pending RFAs to allow submission of Ability to Proceed Forms, including those regarding verification of zoning, are helpful, zoning has to be in place as of the application deadline. Applicants with zoning decisions pending may be rendered unable to apply.

Some of the pending RFAs are not heavily subscribed and postponements such as Hillsborough County's could mean that good applications will not get submitted because resolution of a zoning issue is postponed past the application due date.

I would be happy to discuss this over the phone if more detail would be helpful.



In a briefing Sunday, at the State Emergency Operations Center, Governor DeSantis announced the following:

- At the Governor's direction, a public-private partnership has been put in place between Memorial Healthcare in Broward and the National Guard to set up a mobile testing unit.
- Governor DeSantis has directed the Department of Business and Professional Regulation Secretary Halsey Beshears, in coordination with the Florida Department of Health, to issue social distancing guidance to restaurants and bars.

- Governor DeSantis sent a letter to the federal Small Business Administration to turn on the SBA loan program for small businesses.
- Governor DeSantis directed the Department of Management Services Secretary Jonathan Satter to allow state employees to donate and transfer their available leave time to other state employees to mitigate the impacts of school closures.



Hillsborough County Cancellations

In an abundance of caution and as part of mitigation efforts in response to the COVID-19 coronavirus, Hillsborough County is cancelling all meetings, including Land Use Hearing Officer (LUHO) and Zoning Hearing Master (ZHM) public hearings and the Board of County Commissioners Land Use Meeting, until April 13. The health and well-being of our citizens is our top priority. We will continue to diligently monitor the situation and take appropriate action as the need arises.

The closure impacts all formal programming at Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Libraries, Hillsborough County Parks & Recreation facilities, and scheduled events in County regional parks. Libraries will remain open for normal use and plans are in place to provide online programming alternatives when applicable. Libraries will not be available for group or public meetings. Parks will also remain open.

Hillsborough County Senior Centers will be closed, which includes adult day care and congregate dining services. However, steps are

being taken to increase the provision of in-home meals.

Currently, regular operations of County government continue. Residents who are able to conduct business transactions online or over the phone are encouraged to do so at this time. The primary focus for Hillsborough County continues to be on public safety. Residents should be advised that some day-to-day services may take a bit longer to process than usual as the county is under a local state of emergency.

Hillsborough County's Office of Emergency Management is fully prepared to respond to any scenario that has the potential to cause disruption in our communities. We will continue to diligently monitor the situation and continue to take appropriate action as the need arises.

This virus has the potential to spread rapidly, but there are measures anybody can take to help protect themselves. The best ways to avoid this illness are the same measures taken against the common cold and flu. Wash your hands often and use alcohol-based hand sanitizer, especially after touching shared surfaces. Stay away from individuals who are sick. Most importantly, stay home if you are sick.

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Regards,

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