

City of Tucson
City Manager Town Hall FAQs: May 13, 2020

CATEGORY	QUESTION	RESPONSE
ALTERNATIVE WORK SCHEDULES	So will we be able to move forward with 4/10 at HCV-Housing and Community Development?	Schedule changes are up to your Director. Alternate work schedule requests should be submitted to the Human Resources Director, per AD 2.01-9 Alternate Work Schedules. Telework assignments and the transition to return to work in the office will be reviewed by each department director accordingly.
TRAINING	Has there been any thought or discussion into building a formal, ongoing program where employees would volunteer to develop "optional skill sets"; skill sets that would come into use when outstanding emergency situations such as COVID-19 arise (thus easing the concerns regarding redeployment)?	Thank you for your suggestion. Training opportunities are always available for COT employees, as offered by the Employee Engagement and Workforce Development team. Current training opportunities, including some to help expand a variety of "optional skills sets" are listed their internet and intranet sites: https://www.tucsonaz.gov/hr/employee-engagement-workforce-development . In an emergency setting, this is a good idea and all suggestions will be considered. Thank you.
FFCRA LEAVE	Would getting federal leave approved after state re opens require verification?	At this time that has not been determined. However, there are six different qualifying reasons for the federal FFCRA leave related to COVID-19; doctor's note verification is currently not required so as to avoid unnecessary exposure for COT employees, and to alleviate the demand on healthcare professionals and testing materials. FFCRA runs until 12/31/2020.
CITY SAVINGS	We use a janitorial service at our office. we should look into using city employees to help prevent layoffs/furloughs and save a substantial amount of money if done city wide?	Thank you for your suggestion; all options are being considered. At this time it has been determined that the level of cleaning and disinfecting required for a smooth return to work transition and to maintain cleanliness once services are on site, is best left to trained professionals. We will continue to monitor this moving forward.

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FEDERAL FUNDS	Is the federal money only approved to use for police/fire payroll? Does it include detective, non sworn police department? Does that free up money for other areas of the city?	The latest federal guidance allows for the City to use CARES Act funding for public safety personnel involved in response to the coronavirus outbreak. Any offsets to public safety costs positively affect the General Fund.
SAFETY / PUBLIC CONTACT	I have a question about permits. Tucson Fire Dept. has a permit desk, but anyone who needs to pay or talk to the permit desk, they are allowed to enter back where all employees are. This is not only a safety issue, but if they are sick they will be able to bring COVID to all employees in the Fire Central area. How will this be addressed?	Contact with the public will be addressed as part of the City's reopening plan.
TOWN HALL UPDATES	Will you continue these virtual live updates after COVID-19 calms down? Maybe bi-weekly or monthly? I really like it.	Yes, the City Manager will continue communication with the employees after the stay at home orders end.
CITY SAVINGS	DTP is running the gift card program that looks to be very successful. Is it possible to run a discount program for City employees to local establishments? Something like COT Employees can get a 10% discount and a list of local shops when showing their City ID. This would promote shopping local over big box and bringing money back into the local economy	Thank you for your suggestion. It will be shared with the Economic Initiatives team.
HOMELESS	I am concerned there is unclear direction on homeless encampment removal - there is an increase in homeless in Santa Cruz River and various wash areas in the City. City Attorney office says removing encampments is allowed for safety reasons. But there seems to be confusion regarding homeless protocol / 72 hr notification. Unless we continue this clean-up service, we will have safety issues escalate, hazard conditions continuing, and acceleration of homeless moving to Tucson. Homeless protocol provides an opportunity to assist the homeless with looking at other avenues	Thank you for your comment.

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HOMELESS	Will park closure hours return back to normal for homeless camp enforcement?	Yes, park closure hours are currently being enforced.
CHILDCARE	What would it take parks and rec folks to get certified to take kids less than 5? Is that on the table?	The City is not currently considering training for this purpose, but this may be a consideration in the future if the need presents itself.
CITY EVENTS	Are special events that are in our parks and have large gatherings being canceled for the rest of the year?	The City has not announced when special events will begin again.
UNIONS	When negotiating w/ unions/SunTran, can One City One Team be enforced so that one group doesn't get the short end of the stick in order to pay for another group's benefit?	Thank you for your comment.
CITY EVENTS	Is anyone working on sharing on a Calendar/Timeline of the events that have already occurred and dates that we can look forward to? This would help alleviate some of the uncertainty	The reopening plan will be shared with staff once it is approved.