



CITY OF METROPOLIS

Billy McDaniel, Mayor

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Press Release

May 13th, 2020

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Due to the recent postings by county elected officials, it is only prudent that I as Mayor need to reply to many questions and concerns that have been brought to my attention. First, I would like to remind everyone, the City of Metropolis did not shut down any private businesses and operations. The city did not enter any stay-at-home orders. This was mandated by the Governor of the State of Illinois and is being carried out by the various agencies of the State of Illinois.

As the City did not close the businesses, the City does not have the authority to open them. Like every other citizen, I believed that this order would be effective for 30 days and then we would return to something closer to "normal". So, the city complied with the request of the Governor and announced the restrictions and instructions that we were given. We followed the guidelines provided by the State Police, the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, and the Illinois Department of Public Health and complied with their requests for assistance at the local level. Unfortunately, even after 40+ days we have not been able to re-open as we would like.

Neither I, as mayor, nor the City Council has the authority to decide what you as a business owner may or may not do at this point. If YOU choose to open your business, that is up to YOU. The City cannot give you permission or perform any acts, adopt any rules, or give any orders that would allow you to open. If people get sick and it gets traced back to your business or place of worship, the City has no responsibility or liability in that action. Also, please remember that we cannot control what actions the state in the form of the Illinois Liquor Control Commission, the Illinois Department of Public Health, the Illinois Secretary of State, or any other licensing agencies may take towards businesses and individual's state issued licenses, permits, or exemptions. Any consequences that we have previously warned you about on our webpage, in press releases, letters, or social media have been direct communications from state agencies in charge of this pandemic.

The City gets numerous complaints on both sides of this issue. It is a fact that not everyone will be happy with the decisions made going forward. **City government will comply with all orders that are in effect.** Whether you as an individual or business or organization comply is up to you, your advisors, and your insurance company. **The city cannot and will not initiate enforcement actions on its own.** The city simply refers all complaints or callers to the Illinois State Police and the Southern 7 Health Department. The Illinois Department of Public Health is the lead agency for this COVID19 pandemic and Southern 7 is its local arm. It is up to them what actions can or will be taken.

We ask only that you pray about and give careful thought to any decision you make. Regardless of your decision or choices, please be mindful of your families, customers, church members, and neighbors and follow safe and healthy practices: safe distancing, frequent hand-washing, careful disinfection and cleaning, and wearing masks when recommended.

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