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I hope this letter finds you safe and healthy during these challenging times. The preventive measures taken as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic have been difficult on people and industries across the country, including right here in Watervliet. While we have adjusted our operations according to State and Federal guidelines, our commitment to our residents and the community has remained steadfast.

We will continue to take the necessary precautions to protect the public and the services we provide. As a result of the Governors Executive Order (2020-42), the City will continue to limit public access to all municipal buildings until further notice. Essential services continue to remain fully operational during this time, including the police department and public works department. Watervliet's parks remain open; however, all equipment that would compromise the social distancing/safety guidelines set forth by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) have been temporarily closed. Additionally, all public events that would otherwise utilize the City's park system have been rescheduled or cancelled. To get the latest information and press releases on behalf of the city, we recommend visiting watervliet.org and also subscribe to notifications on the City's official Facebook page, City of Watervliet – Government.

Furthermore, the City made the decision to temporarily suspend water service "shut-offs" on March 8, ahead of the state issued mandate. You, our residents/customers, remain our top priority and we are committed to working with you through these uncertain times. As part of that commitment, we will continue to suspend water "shut-offs" until further notice. However, even with the temporary suspension of water/sewer shut-offs, we encourage you to pay the full amount due, as late fees will continue to be assessed regardless of shut-off status.

Finally, Watervliet remains a strong, resilient, and close-knit community. TOGETHER we will weather these unfortunate circumstances. We thank you for doing your part in observing social distancing and wish you and your family good health and warm wishes.

Watervliet Strong,

R. Tyler Dotson, MPA
City Manager