

NEWS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

CITY COMMENTS ON WSU AND COVID-19

March 11, 2020

PULLMAN, WA ---

Following the decision by the Washington State University administration to go to online classes after spring break on March 23, the city of Pullman and Pullman Chamber of Commerce voiced their concern for the local businesses that will be impacted by the decision.

Mayor Glenn Johnson talked with President Kirk Schulz this morning and Schulz emphasized that the university is not closing down and will remain open while online classes are conducted. He said the dorms and dining halls will remain open and that there will be students who will remain on campus. He also assured the mayor that no decision has been made on events in April and May including Mom's Weekend and graduation. Both he and the mayor said the number one concern is for the health and safety of Pullman residents. Schulz said that all WSU decisions have taken the economic impact on the city into consideration.

Mayor Johnson urges Pullman residents to continue to support our local businesses. Supporting our local businesses at this time is critical to maintaining our local economy and he knows that our local businesses have instituted additional measures to protect employees' and consumers' health.

The City will help connect businesses to loans as they become available from the Small Business Administration (SBA). The Mayor and Police Chief Gary Jenkins were on a national conference call arranged by the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs at the White House and were notified that loans will be available for up to \$2 million per business. This is the first time that disaster loans have been available because of a health care emergency. SBA requires that at least five businesses in a county be impacted by COVID-19 for businesses in that county to qualify for assistance. For more information on the SBA program please follow the link:

<https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/Information/EIDLLoans>

Governor Inslee has made further information and resources available designed to assist businesses and employees. To view these measures, please follow this link:

<https://www.governor.wa.gov/issues/issues/covid-19-resources/covid-19-resources-businesses-and-workers>

The city of Pullman established the following link to keep residents and businesses updated with the most current information: [https://www.pullman-](https://www.pullman-wa.gov/government/departments/police_department/c_o_v_i_d-19)

[wa.gov/government/departments/police_department/c_o_v_i_d-19](https://www.pullman-wa.gov/government/departments/police_department/c_o_v_i_d-19)