



# Mayor's Monthly Newsletter

Written by Mayor Andrew Mitcham

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Mayors Newsletter May 2020

Hello Friends & Neighbors,

Traditionally, this month's newsletter would be spent discussing one of the most important functions of City Council—the start of budget workshops—but given the unprecedented situation we find ourselves in, specifics and projections will have to wait for more certain times. A large portion of our City's revenue base is *sales tax*, and the impact of local businesses closures for over 2 months will not be known for perhaps another month or two. We now have the challenge of planning next fiscal year's budget while even the most seasoned, professional economists have no idea what the future holds.

However, our City's long history of conservative fiscal management and decision to prioritize grant funding over General Funds for flood infrastructure projects puts us in a far better position than most other regional governments. Years of maintaining a healthy reserve fund above and beyond the minimum recommended 90-day reserve level will allow our most important services to weather this storm. Jersey Village is a resilient City in more ways than one and I applaud our current and past City leadership for always planning for the unknown.

Capital improvement projects related to streets, drainage, flood mitigation, park improvements, wastewater treatment, sidewalks, signage/branding, and other items adopted in the current fiscal year's budget will move forward. We will, however, take a close, careful look at near-term projects slated for FY2020-21 and determine which of those items may need to be tabled until our revenue base becomes more predictable. I look forward to our budget workshops over the next few months, which citizens are welcome to view online via Zoom or YouTube.

Over the years, our citizens have participated in various planning projects to chart a path forward for Jersey Village. A recurring theme in the resulting plans has been preserving the core values and services that have made our City a hidden gem. This will continue to be our focus.

We are still in the thick of this fight against the novel Coronavirus. From the very beginning, I have stressed that this challenge is primarily about resources. As we saw in other major metropolitan areas in our country, viral hotspots resulted in an overwhelming of healthcare resources. Our region has fared far better and we must continue to follow practical guidance to keep ICU beds open and our front-line healthcare workers safe and healthy to treat patients. As businesses slowly reopen, please be mindful of the distance between yourself and others, wear a mask, wash your hands frequently, and stay home if you're feeling sick. Make it a habit to check the City of Jersey Village website ([jerseyvillagetx.com](http://jerseyvillagetx.com)) for regular local updates.

In the media we increasingly hear the phrase "the new normal". Too often, that term has a negative connotation. I choose to see it as an opportunity to improve habits and practices. My hope is that our "new normal" means better hygiene, better sanitation, better sick-leave policies, more resilient supply chains, higher civic engagement, and a re-thinking of what is truly important in our lives.

Lastly, I'm heartbroken for the Seniors of the Class of 2020. To do my small part as the Mayor of Jersey Village and JVHS alum (c/o 2001) I've decided to issue Proclamations to graduating Seniors for their own real holiday. Please visit the City website for a link and more details.

Best Wishes,

Andrew Mitcham  
Mayor