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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## City of Lowell to Reduce On-Site Staff, Maintain All Essential City Services

City Manager Eileen Donoghue has announced that beginning Monday, March 23, 2020, the City of Lowell will begin to reduce the physical presence of employees at City buildings. The decision to reduce on-site staff is an additional measure to protect the safety of the City's organization in response to growing health risks associated with coronavirus (COVID-19), and to ensure the City's preparedness to provide essential services as the circumstances associated with the ongoing national health crisis evolve.

Department heads and employees designated as essential by department heads will continue to report to work while all other employees will be asked to work remotely. Each City department has developed a contingency and continuity plan which will be followed during this period of reduced on-site staffing to ensure that essential services are maintained with minimal disruption.

The public will be able to contact all departments by phone and e-mail. Individuals encountering urgent, time-sensitive situations requiring the attention of City of Lowell staff are advised to contact the appropriate department to determine if an accommodation can be made. The City closed all buildings to the public beginning on Monday, March 16, 2020.

"I am grateful for the efforts of City of Lowell employees during these uncertain times to adapt to rapidly shifting circumstances in order to maintain essential municipal services," **said City Manager Eileen Donoghue**. "As this national public health crisis continues, our role as a municipal government will remain critical. The decision to reduce on-site staff is an additional measure to protect the health and safety of our organization."

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