



CITY OF TAMPA
CITY COUNCIL

LUIS VIERA
District 7 - Chairman

TO: Tampa City Council Members

FROM: Luis Viera, Chair

DATE: March 16, 2020

SUBJECT: City Council Meeting Cancellation

Consistent with the position formally taken by Tampa City Council last Thursday evening and in conjunction with Mayor Jane Castor's Executive Order 2020-02, and after consultation with the Administration, City Attorney and our City Council Attorney, it is determined that all City Council meetings will hereby be cancelled for the next 30 days, effective immediately. The Mayor's Executive Order, which I enclose with this memo, will allow for the Administration to move critical City business forward while protecting the health of the public. I have asked that, following this time period, the Administration provide us in writing a list of all expenditures forwarded under this Executive Order.

We are unable, under present law, to move forward with any public hearings via telephone appearance only by Council members, and having live meetings with the public, staff and interested parties will only serve to jeopardize public health at this critical time. With respect to the cancellation of scheduled quasi-judicial public hearings, pursuant to Section 27-148, in the event any required cancellations extend City Council's approval or denial on an application beyond 180 days of the applicant submitting their application to the zoning administrator, such extension of time is due to the extenuating circumstances as noted in the Executive Order.

I request the City Clerk and the Administration take steps to notify those known to be affected and the general public to the extent possible.

Presently, the next Tampa City Council meeting after this period is scheduled to occur on April 16, 2020. This is a rapidly evolving public health emergency and we will reassess where we stand regarding our ability to meet beyond this period as we move forward.

I thank all Council members and their staff members for their patience during this time.

CC:

John Bennett, Chief of Staff
Martin Shelby, City Council Attorney
Shirley Foxx-Knowles, City Clerk
Gina Grimes, City Attorney
Andrea Zelman, Deputy City Attorney