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PUBLIC NOTICE**Date: 4/28/20**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CALDWELL – On behalf of Mayor Nancolas and the Caldwell City Council, we would like to commend our citizens for their continued cooperation and support of the statewide stay-at-home order. COVID-19 was projected to overwhelm our community and cripple our healthcare systems. It is thanks to each of our residents for following the Governor’s stay-at-home order and practicing social distancing precautions that the scale of disruption is much smaller than originally presumed.

While we are not out of the woods yet, we recognize that residents and businesses are becoming increasingly anxious to open the economy and resume normal life, as are we. However, we ask that everyone continue to follow the course set out by Governor Little and health experts and reopen in stages. This is to ensure both public health safety and economic confidence. [Rebound Idaho](#) details the steps that will be taken over the course of the next 8 weeks for businesses, places of worship, at-risk individuals and the general public.

We are sensitive to the needs of each of our residents. While it is not easy to see schools closed and businesses shut down, it is also not easy to hear of deaths and illnesses of our citizens due to the novel coronavirus, and to recognize that those numbers would be far higher had we all not followed CDC recommendations, President Trump and Governor Little’s orders.

It was with this in mind that Caldwell extended the emergency ordinance (No. 3273) originally enacted on March 16, 2020 until May 18, 2020. The ordinance gives Mayor Nancolas authority to implement local health district recommendations for the City. However, it is not an extended stay-at-home order. Caldwell is on track to follow the rest of the state and begin our economic rebound May 1, 2020.

The City of Caldwell has not issued any stay-at-home order, nor has the City of Caldwell closed any businesses. The stay-at-home order was issued legally and lawfully by the Governor of Idaho.

Action the City of Caldwell has taken includes only the following:

- Closing of City Hall and other City buildings
- Delaying the holding of public hearings
- Closing public playground equipment
- Cancelling city-sponsored events
- Temporarily closing our two Municipal Golf Courses (which have since been reopened)

Each action was taken under the advice and direction of the Southwest District Health Department and state officials. “There is no one that cares about our businesses and citizens more than we do. We have spent a lifetime working for them. This is a very difficult time for everyone involved and we are still working tirelessly to improve our business environment.” said Mayor Nancolas. “When I was elected, I took an Oath of Office and swore to uphold the laws and ordinances of the State of Idaho and the City of Caldwell. I take that Oath very seriously.”

A recent opinion from the state deputy Attorney General Brian Kane finds that under a pandemic, a statewide stay-at-home order is, in fact, constitutional.

“I understand that citizens are concerned with their constitutional rights of assembly and worship, but this authority is being exercised to stop the spread of a highly contagious and potentially fatal disease,” he wrote. “Although these temporary measures are inconvenient for us all, they are legally defensible.” *

We recognize that this has been a difficult time for us all. While each of us have grappled with new challenges, we remember that our neighbors, friends, families and colleagues are all grappling with challenges of their own. For the duration of the stay-at-home order and through our economic reopening, we urge you to be safe, be kind, and to remember that we are all in this together.

**Attorney General quote courtesy of the Idaho Press Tribune.*