**Good evening Placerville,**

**I want to convey my heartfelt appreciation to our first responders, our police department medical professionals, city workers and our state and county partners for all their efforts responding to the Covid19 pandemic.**

**I also want to thank our local businesses complying with state and local orders to close as we try and flatten the curve and not overwhelm our hospitals and healthcare systems. I know closing is a difficult decision and many of you were forced to furlough or lay off employees. For those businesses deemed essential, I want to thank you for taking precautions to maintain social distancing for the safety of your employees and customers alike.**

**We have never faced a pandemic of this magnitude and our institutions, both public and private are being tested in this crisis. How we respond will directly impact the scope and longevity of the pandemic. Most official reports believe we will not know if our “stay at home” directives will have the desired impact for several more weeks. Even if restrictions are eased in the coming weeks it is vitally important to adhere to guidelines now so we can all go back to our normal routines in the future.**

**I want to try and frame the situation. If we all attended a college football game with 100,000 other fans- Let’s say an Alabama vs LSU marquee matchup. Would you still attend if you knew 1000 attendees were going to die at the game? Would you consider a 1% potential death rate an acceptable risk to see a great football game? I know- some hardcore fans would but I think most people would not believe a 1% chance of dying is worth the risk. I am not trying to make light of the situation or create a false equivalency but to try and provide some context to the orders affecting our daily lives. Just today the official count of Covid19 cases for CDPH went from 1733 to 2102. That is a 21% increase. And we have 3 confirmed cases in El Dorado County.**

**As I drive around town, I still see groups of kids and teenagers walking around town or hanging out at the skate park. Because reports show covid19 disproportionately affects seniors perhaps they do not feel this pandemic will infect them. It may not, or it may only mildly- but it can affect their parents, their grandparents or other seniors if they are a carrier. Parents, please monitor where your children are located so they are not spreading or getting themselves needlessly infected with Covid19. And there are no toddlers walking around by themselves so every school-aged kid I have seen knows better and has access to 24/7 media to know they should not be hanging out with their friends. School is closed for a reason- it’s not a summer break to hang out.**

**On March 19th the Governor issued a stay-at-home order and all Placerville residents should comply with this order except for those working in essential industries or to procure exemptions such as food, gas, prescriptions or medical services. The City has taken steps to protect our workers and residents and all City facilities are closed except for PD which still has walk in service for required contact and emergencies. However, our dedicated City employees are working to make sure services are provided. If you need to contact the City you still can and I would direct you to our webpage, cityofplacerville.org. You can check our city webpage for local and general information on Covid19. You can also go to covid19.ca.gov where there are links to apply for unemployment or for a small business loan.**

**As information is rapidly changing, we will try and update our webpage as quickly as possible and I know the Governor’s webpage will do the same.**

**I’d like to thank Vice Mayor Thomas for his efforts on a couple of fronts. For his work with local merchants downtown to try and find creative solutions to keep our businesses viable and for his work with homeless advocates and our local continuum of care and county services as we try to simultaneously seek safe solutions for our unhoused during this crisis. I want to thank all my Council Colleagues, the City Manager and Dave Warren, the PD and staff for their efforts during this time.**

**And lastly, I want to give a collective thank you to our community. Most of our residents have taken this threat seriously and have abided by the stay at home order. I want to thank you- as we all know, Placerville has a disproportionately older populations and all our collective efforts will help lessen the risk to our senior neighbors. But like the good rural community we are, there is a great deal of self-reliance and not looking to government for the answer to everything. This self -reliance shows our independence but also our compassion for our neighbor. I am continually inspired by social media posts and groups that came together to ask if neighbors needed help or a ride to the market. It’s those small acts of kindness that make Placerville such a special place to live and a place I am proud to call home.**

**So do continue to stay home to the extent possible and if you are able-support our local businesses and restaurants as we all try and navigate these unprecedented times.**