



## Teleconference with Suisun mayor links churches, nonprofits to fill gaps

By [Amy Maginnis-Honey](#)



*Suisun City Mayor Lori Wilson. (Robinson Kuntz/Daily Republic file)*

SUISUN CITY — Mayor Lori Wilson gathered members of Suisun City churches and nonprofits for a teleconference Wednesday afternoon to chat about possible partnerships to fill in any gaps during the Covid-19 outbreak.

The teleconference also served as an exercise in social distancing.

Wilson praised participants for the value they bring to the community at all times.

“Doing what you do normally is of great benefit,” Wilson said.

Maj. Randy Hartt of The Salvation Army’s Kroc Center said the center is offering all social services while following social distancing guidelines. By the end of next week, all such services might be offered on a drive-thru basis.

“We are working out the details,” he said.

Hartt said the center is seeing about 400 families a day and is keeping stocked while working closely with the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano.

“We are down on dairy and bread and pastries as is everyone else,” he said.

The Salvation Army in Sacramento is working with private donors, which could result in the local center becoming a hub for supplying other chapters of The Salvation Army.

“We are as available as far as we can be to the city,” Hartt said, noting he’s ready for situations that may require mobile unit feeding.

Michael Brito, director of operations at the Kroc Center, said they are offering limited child care and trying to see if there is enough demand to transition into child care for emergency services.

Kaiya Butcher, executive pastor at The Building Christian Fellowship, said her church members were open to help the best they can, based on their resources.

Patricia Phillips of Liberty Church said the members of her congregation are available to help.

Waiting on delivery services can result in a two-week delay for the vulnerable populations. Wilson was seeking arms and legs to make deliveries.

Raley’s will soon begin offering a Senior Essentials Bag that will be ready at 7 a.m. daily for pickup. It will include a mix of fresh items and pantry staples, according to the Raley’s website.

John and Kaiya Butcher said they would help pick up the bags and deliver them to those who can’t make it to the store.

At present, Walmart and Rite-Aid will maintain normal business hours, Wilson said. They have not set aside a separate shopping time for the elderly.

Meals on Wheels is in need of volunteers to help deliver meals. With senior congregate centers closed, more seniors need the service.

“You could be a great resource to them,” Wilson said, noting the nonprofit is centered in Suisun City.

“We have not cut back on services and in fact are taking on new clients,” Meals on Wheels executive director Laurie Hartmann said in an email to Wilson.

Wilson said she had also connected with a Suisun City woman who runs a pet rescue nonprofit who is seeking volunteers to walk pets and to pick up dog food.

Wilson encouraged the churches and nonprofits to partner with each other when possible.

The needs will continue to increase as quick-service restaurants can only offer takeout and delivery via state guidelines.

“If you don’t have a job, you don’t have food,” Wilson said.

Brito said he was looking into a distribution drive up. He also encouraged taking precautions beyond gloves in food distribution.

Clean off the cans before giving them out, he said. They may be contain a virus that would spread.

“Wipe it off when you get it,” Hartt said. “Make sure you do before you open it.”

“This a new thing for everyone,” Wilson told the callers. “It’s unprecedented in our generation and impacting the whole world.”

There is one confirmed case in Suisun City.

“We expect more cases as tests become widely available,” Wilson said. “We don’t want people to become alarmed. We expect more positive results. It’s important we take care of our family and friends.”

The city updates news at [www.suisun.com/coronavirus](http://www.suisun.com/coronavirus).

If you can help, send an email to Wilson at [lwilson@suisun.com](mailto:lwilson@suisun.com).

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