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## CITY OF MUSCATINE PRESS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **NOW IS NOT THE BEST TIME FOR YARD/GARAGE SALES**

*Governor's proclamation does not prohibit, but activity is not recommended*

**MUSCATINE, Iowa** – Sunshine and warmer temperatures herald the arrival of “Garage Sale Season”, the time of year that residents have yard and/or garage sales to clear away unwanted items for a little extra spending money. However, this may not be the best time due to health risks associated with the COVID-19 outbreak.

“Keeping Muscatine residents safe has always been and will continue to be one of our highest priorities,” Muscatine Mayor Diana Broderson said. “We believe that yard and garage sales are non-essential and should not be held until the Governor’s declaration expires or is cancelled.”

Muscatine County Public Health Director Christy Roby Williams also strongly discourages residents from holding garage or yard sales at this time.

“The Governor’s proclamation is silent on garage or yard sales in particular so I cannot tell you that they are prohibited,” Williams said. “But they would be strongly discouraged in areas with ongoing community spread of COVID-19 such as ours. I would not recommend this activity in our county at this time.”

The proclamation by Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds on April 27 continues the prohibition of gatherings of 10 or more people until May 15 at 11:59 p.m. along with the prohibition of door-to-door sales and "solicitations at all homes and residences".

"Please continue to stay home when possible, wear a face mask that covers your nose and mouth when you must go in public, keep six feet between you and others when you go out, and wash your hands frequently and for at least 20 seconds," Williams said. "If you feel mildly ill, please stay home and call your medical provider for guidance and further assessment."

The City thanks all Muscatine residents for following the guidelines of social distancing and personal hygiene to help reduce the spread of COVID-19. Remember to do your part. Do not go out unless it is essential, stay home if possible, wash your hands, and cover your cough.