From:	Ginny Merriam
To:	Grp. City Council and City Web Site
Subject:	Johnson Street open house
Date:	Wednesday, October 28, 2020 10:18:11 PM
Attachments:	City of Missoula EDDM mailer_v4 FINAL.pdf

Dear Council members,

While we are very concerned about our level of COVID-19 cases in Missoula County, we are proceeding with our open house for the Johnson Street emergency winter shelter on Thursday from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. after consultation with the Health Department. I wanted to make sure you know that we are exercising extreme caution. We filed a detailed plan with the Health Department, which they approved and support, and will be militant in enforcing mask-wearing and six-foot distances. We will also have traffic arrows on the floor and outside and will have plenty of staff there to enforce, as well as a 50-person limit in a building that is approved to sleep 150 people socially-distanced. We have had mostly supportive comments from neighboring residents and business owners, but we have heard concerns too, and we think it's important for people to have the opportunity to walk through the space and ask questions.

Mayor Engen will attend, as will Commissioner Juanita Vero from the County. I'm hoping that any of you who can attend will do so. I'd love to see all of you get some credit for making this compassionate program possible. Most Missoula residents want us to be a caring community where we take care of each other, and the will you put behind this program makes it happen. We've had good interest from news organizations.

I'm attaching our mailer, which went to 6,281 residences and businesses in a four-mile radius of the shelter last week and gives a good overview. Please give me a call or e-mail me back if you have questions.

Ginny Merriam
Communications Director
City of Missoula
435 Ryman St.
Missoula, MT 59802
Office: (406) 552-6007
Cell: (406) 546-7692