



April 8th, 2020

## Responding to COVID-19 in Dutchtown

Mayor Krewson, Dr. Echols and Missouri Foundation for Health:

Members of the Dutchtown community, in particular those working on community building through various local organizations, have raised concerns regarding the city's targeted response to COVID-19. As of early April, case counts suggest that portions of Dutchtown including 63116 and 63118 are seeing higher than average instances of the disease compared to other zip codes in the southern half of the city.

While these numbers are likely directly related to population and density, we also know that the demographics of this portion of southeast city demonstrate higher than average percentages of impoverished and minority residents. Further, this city's racial health disparities are well documented and affect these Dutchtown populations daily. Consequently, there is no question that our past and current inequalities in Dutchtown will magnify the health and economic effects COVID-19 has on our most vulnerable neighbors.

With what data is available nationwide, analysis and reporting is making clear that there is an obvious trend showing the virus hits predominantly black communities particularly hard. With this in mind, Downtown Dutchtown, Dutchtown South Community Corporation, and the Dutchtown Community Improvement District are requesting a response from the city to outline how COVID-19 will be addressed in Dutchtown specifically.

Further, we are requesting immediate assistance to help flatten the curve of COVID-19 in our neighborhood in the form of hand sanitizing and/or handwashing stations at major public transportation intersections and inclusion in the city's current health outreach effort, coordinated by the Health Department and funded in part by the Missouri Foundation for Health in our community.

We look forward to working with these partners to communicate your response to Dutchtown neighbors via [www.DutchtownSTL.org](http://www.DutchtownSTL.org) and to help implement strategies to mitigate the oversized effect of COVID-19 on our neighbors.

Sincerely,

Nate Lindsey, DT2, President  
Amanda Colón-Smith, DSCC, Executive Director  
Ashley Raineri, Dutchtown CID, Chair



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