



Eileen M. Donoghue
City Manager

Kara Keefe Mullin
Assistant City Manager

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Leahy and Members of the City Council

FROM: Eileen Donoghue, City Manager *EMD*

DATE: June 23, 2020

SUBJECT: Coronavirus Community Resource Coordinator (**Motion by C.Rourke on 4/28/2020** - Req. City Mgr. Look Into The Availability Of Open Spaces; Such As Cawley Stadium And LeLacheur Park, For School Graduations This Spring That Would Adhere To Current Social Distancing Measures.)

My office has worked closely with school administrators to identify and secure space that can safely accommodate an outdoor graduation ceremony. In the course of our assessment of available space, it was determined that Edward A. LeLacheur Park would be best suited to hold a ceremony.

On June 12, Lowell Public Schools announced that in-person graduation ceremonies for the Lowell High School Class of 2020 will take at LeLacheur Park place on July 21st and July 22nd. The graduating class will be split into four groups with two ceremonies taking place each day in order to reduce the size of the gathering and to allow graduates and spectators to adhere to social distancing protocols. The ceremonies will be conducted according to plans that are fully compliant with state public health guidelines.

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LOWELL HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION CEREMONY ANNOUNCED FOR CLASS OF 2020

The Lowell Public Schools and the City of Lowell are pleased to announce that the Lowell High School Class of 2020 in-person graduation has been scheduled for July 21st and July 22nd (rain dates of July 23rd and July 24th) at Edward A. LeLacheur Park, which is home to the Lowell Spinners.

In keeping with the health and safety guidance provided by the Governor of Massachusetts and the City of Lowell Health Department, this year's graduation will take place outdoors, over two days, with two ceremonies scheduled for each day – at 4pm and 7pm. These four small ceremonies over a two day period will enable Lowell High School students, families and staff to follow social distancing and safety protocols while still providing the opportunity to celebrate a milestone accomplishment in the students' lives.

Each graduate will receive two tickets and each ceremony will be broadcast on the internet as well as on Channel 22 for family members and loved ones who will not be able to attend the ceremony in person. At the conclusion of the four ceremonies, LHS will create and broadcast a full graduation video to commemorate this momentous event for our graduating seniors which will also be broadcast on the internet as well as on Channel 22.

Details regarding the distribution of the two tickets and assignment of graduation ceremony dates and times will be provided by LHS leadership in the coming week. LHS administration will keep families updated in the event there are changes to the Covid-19 guidelines that could affect this plan.