

Podcast Mayor Peter Boch on March 24 2020

My dear citizens of Pforzheim,

For many people in our society, the corona crisis is an economic or even existential burden.

The federal government and the state have therefore announced extensive aid packages, some of which are already being implemented. As a city, we want to frame this aid with our own help and have put together the following ambitious package of measures:

First: We have stopped collecting day care, kindergarten and after-school fees, but also the fees for the children's food. The independent day care providers handle it the same way.

Even for children who are looked after in day care (Tagespflege), all standing orders can be stopped.

Secondly, we suspend the collection of rental payments for halls and sports facilities with immediate effect. In particular, we want to send a signal to our clubs.

Thirdly, all entrepreneurs who are in a commercial lease relationship with the municipality of Pforzheim and whose business is currently prohibited can request that the due date of their future lease payments be postponed until September 30. Of course, we can only offer this for the city's own properties. However, I would like to thank all the owners who have already implemented similarly accommodating regulations and at the same time appeal to everyone else to also think about it.

Fourth: Support to the economy: We grant generous payment terms for all claims that we have on companies, e.g. deferral of trade tax or adjustment of advance payments. This can be requested by companies. We are also planning a hardship fund for owner-managed small businesses in our city. It's supposed to avert threatening bankruptcies with interest-free loans. We will publish the criteria shortly after consulting the municipal council. In addition, I will propose to the municipal council that this year no special fees for outdoor dining seating will be charged.

At the state level, I would like to campaign for an additional Sunday shopping in the fourth quarter to support our retail business.

We are also in talks with the Sparkasse to look for ways to support our citizens, especially the economy.



Fifth: I am very grateful to the public utility (Stadtwerke) managing director that the Stadtwerke will participate in our aid package as far as possible. The Stadtwerke online customer portal enables companies, the self-employed and freelancers, but also private customers, to reduce their monthly installments for electricity, water and gas by up to 10 percent. This is straightforward, without an application or other formalities. This allows you to react quickly, for example if you use less energy due to reduced operation. In addition, there is always the possibility for entrepreneurs to examine further measures in an individual conversation. The contact persons of the Stadtwerke Pforzheim are happy to help you here.

Dear citizens of Pforzheim, let me conclude by saying that we are here for you as the city of Pforzheim. However, we are in a real extreme situation and therefore have to give priority to certain tasks or postpone them entirely. At the moment, the priority is not to distribute parking tickets in stationary traffic. Also priority is not given to keeping lawns in our parks clean. No, we are concentrating and pooling all our strength to master this huge challenge! And I am absolutely certain that it will work.

In this sense:

Stay healthy!

Yours, Peter Boch