

1 RESOLUTION NO.

2 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF  
3 RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA, URGING HCA HEALTHCARE,  
4 AREA HOSPITALS AND OTHER HEALTHCARE FACILITIES TO  
IMPLEMENT HEIGHTENED PROTECTIVE MEASURES FOR  
FRONTLINE HEALTHCARE WORKERS DUE TO COVID-19.

5 WHEREAS, the California Emergency Services Act (Government Code § 8550, *et seq.*)  
6 empowers the City Council of the City of Riverside to declare a Local Emergency when there exist  
7 conditions of disaster or of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the territorial  
8 limits of the City of Riverside (“City”) which are or are likely to be beyond the control of the  
9 services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of the City; and

10 WHEREAS, the City, pursuant to the police powers delegated to it by the Constitution of the  
11 State of California, has the authority to enact laws which promote the public health, safety and  
12 general welfare of its residents; and

13 WHEREAS, in accordance with Municipal Code Chapter 9.20.260, The City Council is  
14 empowered to enact ordinances, resolutions or rules to prevent against, mitigate, and prepare for aid  
15 in the response or recovery to all such foreseeable or unforeseeable emergencies and disasters; and

16 WHEREAS, during a local emergency the City Council may promulgate orders and  
17 regulations necessary to provide for the protection of life and property, such orders and regulations  
18 and amendments and rescissions thereof shall be in writing and shall be given widespread publicity  
19 and notice.

20 WHEREAS, as of the writing of this resolution, the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)  
21 Pandemic has ravaged the Country, State, Region and City of Riverside, with ICU beds at 110%  
22 capacity, positivity rate of those tested at 20% Countywide and most critically claiming the lives of  
23 156 Riverside residents and counting; and

24 WHEREAS, drastic and immediate actions must be taken by the community of Riverside as  
25 a whole to contain the spread of COVID-19, protect our public health system and preserve the public  
26 health and safety of all residents; and

27 WHEREAS, Frontline healthcare workers such as doctors, nurses, paramedics, laboratory  
28 workers, environmental service workers, and other healthcare staff have been the first line of defense

1 in the fight against the spread of COVID-19, often putting themselves in great risk of contracting the  
2 virus every single day from the patients they serve while doing so; and

3 WHEREAS, as a result, these healthcare professionals have the potential to put patients,  
4 themselves and their families at risk of transmission of COVID-19 due to their prolonged exposures  
5 to patients without adequate Personal Protective Equipment such as N95 masks, gloves, booties, hair  
6 coverings, face shields, and protective coveralls; and

7 WHEREAS, due to allegations of understaffing and inadequate PPE, Registered Nurses at  
8 Riverside Community Hospital (RCH) issued a strike notice on June 15 and implemented a 10-day  
9 strike; and

10 WHEREAS, Nurses allege that in the COVID-19 and ICU units they care for more patients  
11 than they can safely handle, creating an increased risk of negative patient outcomes and preventing  
12 nurses from giving their patients the time and attention they need; and

13 WHEREAS, Riverside Community Hospital is a part of HCA Healthcare, one of the largest  
14 and most wealthy hospital corporations in the world; and

15 WHEREAS, two healthcare workers at Riverside Community Hospital, Environmental  
16 Services Worker Rosa Luna and Lab Assistant Sally Lara, have perished from COVID-19 while  
17 multiple others have been infected; and

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Riverside,  
19 California, as follows:

20 Section 1:

21 a. That the Riverside City Council reaffirms its commitment to frontline healthcare  
22 workers in the fight against the spread of COVID-19 and in maintaining the health and safety of  
23 healthcare professionals who risk their lives for the well-being of others; and

24 b. That the Riverside City Council believes that it is absolutely necessary to ensure that  
25 healthcare professionals in both the hospital and in-home support service settings should be provided  
26 with sufficient Personal Protective Equipment; and

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1 c. That the Riverside City Council understands there is a nationwide shortage of  
2 Personal Protective Equipment, including N95 masks, and further commits to assisting healthcare  
3 facilities procure PPE; and

4 d. That the Riverside City Council supports a comprehensive set of guidelines,  
5 directives and enforcement be implemented statewide in response to the COVID-19 pandemic that  
6 includes both avoiding transmission and caring for patients; and

7 e. That the Riverside City Council reaffirms its commitment and responsibility to  
8 protect and preserve the lives and health of all Riversiders during a time of an unprecedented  
9 emergency.

10 Section 2: In the interest of preserving the safety and health of frontline healthcare workers,  
11 patients and the general public, the Riverside City Council imposes the following guidelines for  
12 healthcare facilities such as but not limited to hospitals, assisted living facilities and clinics to abide  
13 by for the duration of the local emergency:

14 a. Provide employees with proper and adequate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE),  
15 which means including N95 masks, face shields, gloves, gowns, booties, hair coverings, if requested,  
16 and always for any employee coming in contact with a probable or confirmed COVID patient, or a  
17 hospital worker who has interacted with a hospital worker who has interacted with a COVID patient;  
18 and

19 b. Test patients in advance of scheduled procedures when applicable and before anyone  
20 even enters the hospital; and

21 c. Formulate a strict visitor policy that requires the wearing of face coverings and  
22 includes temperature checks and screening for COVID-19 symptoms; and

23 d. Quarantined healthcare workers must test negative for COVID before they are  
24 required by hospital management to come back to work and must be given advance notice before  
25 they are required to do so.

26 e. Ensure sufficient staffing at hospitals so COVID-19 and all patients receive quality  
27 care, and, due to furloughs, reduced hours, and staffing cuts, invest in programs so that workers can  
28 sign up for additional shifts to keep patients safe,

