



City of Arts & Innovation

City Council Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL DATE: MAY 15, 2020
FROM: CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE WARDS: ALL
SUBJECT: RECEIVE AND PROVIDE DIRECTION ON RIVERSIDE'S ROAD TO COVID-19 RECOVERY FRAMEWORK

ISSUE:

Receive and provide direction on Riverside's Road to COVID-19 Recovery Framework.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council:

1. Receive a report on Riverside's Road to Recovery Framework;
2. Direct staff to comprehensively integrate Riverside's Road to Recovery Framework in all City departments;
3. Review and approve the following top priorities upon announcements and guidance released from the state and county officials to reopen the economy:
 - a. Facilitate restoration of economic activities in a manner that enables business to operate safely and viably, maintains public health objectives, and keeps COVID-19 transmissions very low;
 - b. Ensure the response, recovery and thrive phases are centered on the safety, equity and inclusion of our community; and
 - c. Facilitate City activities that keeps the workforce safe, provide public services that ensure public health, safety and welfare.
4. Direct staff to return monthly with updates to City Council that addresses specific programs, resources, etc. that are being implemented with and for the community

BACKGROUND:

On March 13, 2020, the City of Riverside declared a local emergency to increase its efforts to protect the public from COVID-19. The City of Riverside's proclamation of local emergency

notes that “there exists conditions of a disaster or of extreme peril to the safety of persons or property within the territorial limits of the City of Riverside that are beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment and facilities of the City for the reason of COVID-19.” The City Council ratified that declaration on March 17, 2020. As the COVID-19 pandemic evolved, City Council, Riverside County Department of Public Health, and the State of California have issued several orders to prevent and control the spread of COVID-19. A timeline of key action items issued are summarized in Attachment 1.

DISCUSSION:

Over the past several weeks of the pandemic, staff have worked to respond to the various needs that arose from COVID-19. Responses included communicating information, resources and other activities relative to challenges experienced by businesses and residents.

In addressing the COVID-19 pandemic, three stages or phases of the pandemic have been identified and provide a framework that focuses city efforts in response to a continuously changing situation. The three phases of the pandemic are described as follows:

1. **Response** phase began when the City declared a local emergency, followed by the immediate government responses that were activated to meet the immediate needs of the emergency. Activities in this initial stage can be described as “triage” mode response to businesses, residents, neighborhoods, etc.
2. **Recovery** phase describes a transitional period when public health officials initiate a reduction in restrictions and provide allowances to start reopening businesses and places of assembly, and other actions intended to aid in a gradual, controlled return to normal.
3. **Thrive** phase encompasses an environment in which businesses, schools, and other places of assembly return to full operations free of COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. This phase is characterized by efforts that lead to a full economic recovery, the restoration of a strong community, and a post-COVID-19 municipal government that has adapted innovative solutions.

To guide the City and its constituents through each of the three phases, staff drafted the Road to Recovery Framework (Framework, see Attachment 2), a living document that is intended to be flexible and fluid in an evolving public health crisis. This Framework identifies strategic priorities under each phase to guide policies and actions to facilitate restoration of economic activities in a manner that enables businesses to operate safely and viably while maintaining public health objectives and keeping COVID-19 transmissions very low. The Framework also considers strategies to mitigate impacts to community members and suggests other strategies to ensure the recovery process is safe, equitable, and inclusive.

Within the Framework’s appendix section are three documents that detail specific Recovery efforts: 1) a draft guidance to assist the reopening of businesses; 2) a draft guidance on facilitating community-based actions to assist residents and neighborhoods recover; and 3) a draft guidance for reopening City facilities and having City employees return to work.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with the presentation of Riverside’s Road to COVID-19 Recovery Framework. The cost to implement Framework strategies will be presented to the City Council for consideration prior to being awarded if applicable.

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Approved as to form: Gary G. Guess, City Attorney

Attachments:

1. Timeline of Key Events in Response to COVID-19
2. Riverside’s Road to Recovery Framework
3. Presentation