



City of Arts & Innovation

City Council Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL **DATE: MARCH 31, 2020**

FROM: AL ZELINKA **WARDS: ALL**
DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

SUBJECT: RATIFY THE ORDERS OF THE DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES TO: 1) EXTEND THE EXPIRATION DATES FOR CITY ISSUED ENTITLEMENTS AND CONSTRUCTION RELATED PERMITS BY AN ADDITIONAL 60 DAYS; AND 2) PROVIDE FOR MINIMUM STAFFING IN ORDER TO SLOW DOWN THE SPREAD OF COVID-19 AMONG CITY STAFF

ISSUES:

Ratify the orders of the Director of Emergency Services to: 1) extend the expiration dates for City issued entitlements and construction related permits by an additional 60 days; 2) provide for minimum staffing in order to slow down the spread of COVID-19

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the City Council:

1. Ratify the Order of the Director of Emergency Services to extend the expiration dates for City issued entitlements and construction related permits by an additional 60 days; and
2. Ratify the Order of the Director of Emergency Services to provide for minimum staffing in order to slow down the spread of COVID-19 among City staff.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

The California Emergency Services Act (Government Code section 8550, et seq.), Government Code section 8630, and Riverside Municipal Code sections 2.68.010 and 9.20.060 empower the Director of Emergency Services and the Riverside City Council to proclaim a Local Emergency when the City Council is not in session when there exist conditions of disaster or of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the territorial limits of the City of Riverside which are or are likely to be beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of the City and require the combined forces of other political subdivisions to combat. Said proclamations must be ratified by the City Council within seven (7) days.

BACKGROUND:

On March 4, 2020, Governor Newsom declared a state of emergency for the State of California as a result of the threat of COVID-19. On March 11, 2020, Governor Newsom issued his policy recommending the cancellation of public gatherings of 250 people or more and limitations on gatherings of people who are at higher risk for COVID-19 to 10 people or fewer, and delaying or canceling meetings where attendees cannot observe at least six (6) feet of “social distance” from one another.

On March 8, 2020, the Riverside County’s Public Health Officer declared a local health emergency based on an imminent and proximate threat to public health from the introduction of a Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Riverside County. On March 10, 2020, the County of Riverside ratified the local emergency.

On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization characterized COVID-19 as a pandemic.

On March 13, 2020, President Trump declared the COVID-19 pandemic a national emergency.

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 declaration of local emergency was ratified by the City Council on March 17, 2020.

On March 16, 2020, the Riverside County Public Health Officer, by Order, cancelled all gatherings with expected presence of 10 individuals based on an imminent and proximate threat to public health from the introduction of COVID-19 in Riverside County.

On March 16, 2020, Governor Newsom issued additional policy recommendations further restricting gatherings, for example, requesting that restaurants be closed for in-restaurant seated dining, and should be open only to drive-through or other pick-up/delivery options.

DISCUSSION:

It is critical that the City of Riverside do everything necessary to reduce the likelihood of exposure to COVID-19, thereby slowing the spread of COVID-19 in communities worldwide. As the presence of individuals with COVID-19 increases, the difficulty and magnitude of tracing individuals who may have been exposed to a case rises exponentially, increasing the likelihood of spreading the illness.

In an effort to slow down the spread of COVID-19 and help mitigate the impacts resulting from measures taken to slow down the spread of the illness, the Director of Emergency Services issued the following Orders, which have been ratified by the City Council:

1. Proclamation declaring a local emergency to increase the City’s efforts to protect the public from COVID-19:
 - a. Issued March 13, 2020
 - b. Ratified by the City Council on March 17, 2020
 - c. Next review by City Council on or before April 16, 2020.
2. Temporary closure of all bars, breweries and wineries, and restrictions on restaurants to operate at fifty percent occupancy with six feet social distancing:
 - a. Issued March 18, 2020

- b. Next review by City Council on March 31, 2020.

The following Orders require ratification by the City Council:

1. Extend the expiration dates of City issued entitlements and construction related permits for an additional 60 days in order to minimize the potential economic impacts that may be incurred by the development and construction community:
 - a. Issued March 18, 2020.
2. Provide for minimum staffing in order to slow down the spread of COVID-19 amongst City Staff:
 - a. Issued March 19, 2020.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The total fiscal impact of the recommended actions of this report are significant but unknown at this time.

Prepared by: Al Zelinka, Director of Emergency Services

Attachments:

1. Permit Extension Order – March 18, 2020
2. Minimum Staffing Order – March 19, 2020