



*City of Arts & Innovation*

# City Council Memorandum

**TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL** **DATE: MAY 5, 2020**

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

**SUBJECT: REVIEW PROCLAMATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY REGARDING NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) PROCLAIMED ON MARCH 13, 2020 AND RATIFIED BY CITY COUNCIL ON MARCH 17, 2020 UNTIL TERMINATED BY CITY COUNCIL**

## **ISSUE:**

Review the Proclamation of Local Emergency regarding Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) proclaimed on March 13, 2020 and ratified by the City Council on March 17, 2020 until terminated by the City Council.

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the City Council review the Proclamation of Local Emergency regarding Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) proclaimed on March 13, 2020 and ratified by the City Council on March 17, 2020 until terminated by the City Council.

## **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 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 proclamation must be ratified by the City council within seven (7) days. The City Council shall review, at least every 30 days until such local emergency is terminated, the need for continuing the local emergency and shall proclaim the termination of such local emergency at the earliest possible date that conditions warrant.

## **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 City Council ratified that declaration 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.

On March 16, 2020, the Director of Emergency Services ordered the temporary closure of bars, breweries and wineries and called for restaurants and cafes to be closed for in-restaurant seated dining and only be open to drive-through or other pick-up/delivery options for 60 days unless terminated or extended by the City Council.

On March 17, 2020, the City Council altered the order and determined that restaurants may remain open at 50 percent of their capacity as long as they adhere to six feet social distancing norms. Restaurants are still required to observe the March 16, 2020 order of the Riverside County Public Health Officer that limits gatherings to no more than 10 people in each subdivided room of a building. These changes were made to minimize the impact to local businesses to the extent possible while protecting the most vulnerable. On March 18, 2020, the revised order was issued by the Director of Emergency Services and will return to City Council on March 31, 2020 for review as directed by the City Council.

On March 18, 2020, the Director of Emergency Services ordered the extension of 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. The City Council ratified this order on March 31, 2020.

On March 19, 2020 Governor Newsom issued a stay at home order which changed the previous allowance for dining room seating. The recent order now prohibits dining in restaurants; however, delivery and pick-up services are encouraged.

On March 19, 2020, the Director of Emergency Services ordered to provide for minimum staffing in order to slow down the spread of COVID-19 amongst City Staff. The order was ratified by the City Council on March 31, 2020.

On March 21, 2020, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-35-30 suspending all local ordinances restricting the delivery of food products, pharmaceuticals, and other emergency necessities distributed to grocery stores and other retail and institutional channels.

On March 23, 2020, the Director of Emergency Services issued a similar order which was ratified by the City Council on April 7, 2020.

On March 29, 2020, President Trump announced that he will extend the federal social distancing guidelines through April 30, 2020 due to the Continuing Coronavirus outbreak.

On March 31, 2020, the City Council reviewed the order for the temporary closure of bars, breweries and wineries and temporary restrictions for restaurants and unanimously voted to discontinue the order and abide by the State Order issued by Governor Newsom on March 19, 2020. The City Council also approved a resolution to establish a moratorium on evictions for non-payment of rent for residential and commercial tenants during the declared local emergency, for 60-days and waived further readings.

On April 7, 2020, the City Council reviewed the Proclamation of Local Emergency regarding the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) proclaimed on March 13, 2020 and ratified by the City Council on March 17, 2020 and unanimously voted to continue the Local Emergency and return to Council in 30-days for a further review of the Local Emergency. Additionally, the City Council authorize the City Manager, or his designee, to execute all contracts, agreements, documents and/or grants over \$50,000 that pertain to the Local Emergency and subsequently provide a detailed report of such contracts to the City Council.

On April 21, 2020, the City Council Reviewed the Proclamation of Local Emergency regarding Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) proclaimed on March 13, 2020 and ratified by the City Council on March 17, 2020 until terminated by the City Council, continued the Local Emergency; and directed the Director of Emergency Services to return to Council within thirty (30) days with a further review of the Local Emergency

## **DISCUSSION:**

COVID-19 continues to be a serious threat to the health and welfare of people worldwide. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is continuing to monitor and respond to the outbreak of a respiratory illness caused by COVID-19. The CDC has advised that COVID-19 spreads easily from person to person and has issued guidelines recommending that the public adopt policies and routines to enable social distancing wherever possible. As of the writing of this report on April 21, 2020, there are 2,402,250 confirmed cases of COVID-19 resulting in 163,097 confirmed deaths throughout the world, including 2,960 cases and 93 deaths in Riverside County. We are gaining more understanding of COVID-19's epidemiology, clinical course, immunogenicity, and other factors as time progresses, and the situation is changing daily.

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 increases, the difficulty and magnitude of tracing individuals who may have been exposed to a case rises exponentially, increasing the likelihood that such gatherings will impair efforts at

mitigating the spread of illness.

In accordance with Riverside Municipal Code section 9.20.060, the City Council shall review, at least every 30 days until such local emergency is terminated, the need for continuing the local emergency and shall proclaim the termination of such local emergency at the earliest possible date that conditions warrant.

On April 14, 2020, Governor Newsom outlined six indicators for California to modify the stay-at-home order. The six indicators include:

- The ability to monitor and protect our communities through testing, contact tracing, isolating, and supporting those who are positive or exposed;
- The ability to prevent infection in people who are at risk for more severe COVID-19;
- The ability of the hospital and health systems to handle surges;
- The ability to develop therapeutics to meet the demand;
- The ability for businesses, schools, and child care facilities to support physical distancing; and
- The ability to determine when to reinstitute certain measures, such as the stay-at-home orders, if necessary.

The Governor stated that there is no precise timeline for modifying the stay-at-home order, but that these six indicators will serve as the framework for making that decision. Therefore, it is recommended that the Local Emergency in the City of Riverside and the orders put in place should remain until further direction is provided.

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

The total fiscal impact of extending the Order is significant but unknown at this time.

Prepared by:                      Al Zelinka, Director of Emergency Services

### **Attachments:**

1. Proclamation of Local Emergency regarding Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)
2. Resolution Ratifying the Proclamation