

---

**From:** Bettye Strother <[bstrotherthree@outlook.com](mailto:bstrotherthree@outlook.com)>

**Sent:** Thursday, May 28, 2020 9:12 AM

**To:** Edwards, Erin <[EEdwards@riversideca.gov](mailto:EEdwards@riversideca.gov)>

**Subject:** [External] Fireworks 2020

Please vote "yes" to fireworks on July 4, 2020.

Thank you.

Bettye S. Strother

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

cc Mayor  
City Council  
City Manager  
City Attorney  
ACMs  
DCMs  
PRCS Director

**From:** Clair Miles <[clairmariemiles@gmail.com](mailto:clairmariemiles@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 28, 2020 2:12:26 PM  
**To:** Edwards, Erin <[EEwards@riversideca.gov](mailto:EEwards@riversideca.gov)>  
**Subject:** [External]

Good Afternoon,

As a resident long time resident of downtown Riverside, I want to urge you to vote against putting on the annual 4th of July fireworks show this year. I am concerned about the large crowds that gather every year for the event. It will be impossible to enforce social distancing or wearing of masks, and people will inevitably contact the virus.

Riverside County reported its highest one-day increase of COVID-19 cases on Monday on the heels of a major easing of public health orders. 88 new cases on Saturday, 180 on Sunday, and 272 on Monday \*The highest single-day figure since the county began keeping track.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please vote NO!

Sincerely,  
Clair Miles-Parker  
(951) 662-2097  
4406 Mission Inn Ave.  
Riverside, CA 92501

cc Mayor  
City Council  
City Manager  
City Attorney  
ACMs  
DCMs  
PRCS Director

**From:** Ellen Baer <[ejb33@yahoo.com](mailto:ejb33@yahoo.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 26, 2020 12:30 PM  
**To:** Edwards, Erin <[EEdwards@riversideca.gov](mailto:EEdwards@riversideca.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: [External] Re: City of Riverside Declares Local Emergency - Fourth of July Fireworks

Hello!

I just heard that there will not be fireworks for July 4th ... I think that the city should allow fireworks, just not allow persons to meet at the old cemetery, and other common areas that they would normally. Had that been discussed?

Thank you!

Ellen Baer

On Monday, March 16, 2020, 06:49:31 PM PDT, Edwards, Erin <[eedwards@riversideca.gov](mailto:eedwards@riversideca.gov)> wrote:

Ellen,  
School sites are serving lunches because, for some students, school provides the only meals they will have all day. Schools are certainly doing their best to navigate these unprecedented times— keeping health and safety in mind on all fronts. Our school board trustees would be the best equipped to answer more specific questions about the schools.

I hope you are well,  
Erin

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

---

**From:** Ellen Baer <[ejb33@yahoo.com](mailto:ejb33@yahoo.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 16, 2020 6:41:10 PM  
**To:** Edwards, Erin <[EEdwards@riversideca.gov](mailto:EEdwards@riversideca.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: [External] Re: City of Riverside Declares Local Emergency

Thanks Erin!

Today on Nextdoor, someone is suggesting that this school is serving lunch, etc. thought it is closed, is this true? Seems like they should not be doing this if it is true ... thanks

Free lunch at Sierra middle school for any student up to 18 all schools in riverside come by from 11am to 1230

Ellen Baer

On Sunday, March 15, 2020, 02:41:54 PM PDT, Edwards, Erin <[eedwards@riversideca.gov](mailto:eedwards@riversideca.gov)> wrote:

Ellen,  
There are not any confirmed cases in the city of Riverside that I know of. We are keeping the city's website updated with the latest information:

I truly believe that we have extremely competent city staff leading our COVID-19 efforts, staying in very close contact with the county (the local lead in this issue.) I am confident that the proactive measures that we have taken will help significantly in the weeks to come.

Stay well, and don't hesitate to contact me with any questions,  
Erin

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

---

**From:** Ellen Baer <[ejb33@yahoo.com](mailto:ejb33@yahoo.com)>

**Sent:** Friday, March 13, 2020 5:32:56 PM

**To:** GovDeliverySender <[cariverside@public.govdelivery.com](mailto:cariverside@public.govdelivery.com)>; Edwards, Erin <[EEwards@riversideca.gov](mailto:EEwards@riversideca.gov)>

**Subject:** [External] Re: City of Riverside Declares Local Emergency

Hi... are there any cases of Corona Virus in Riverside? Thanks.

Ellen Baer

On Friday, March 13, 2020, 03:38:19 PM PDT, Erin Edwards Riverside Councilmember, Ward 1 <[cariverside@public.govdelivery.com](mailto:cariverside@public.govdelivery.com)> wrote:

PRESS RELEASE



## **City of Riverside Declares Local Emergency, Closes Non-Essential Facilities to the Public**

The City of Riverside declared a local emergency today (3/13) to increase its efforts to protect the public from the coronavirus (COVID-19). Many City offices, including City Hall, libraries and community centers, will close to the public at 5 p.m. and not re-open until at least March 23.

Most city employees will continue to report to work for their regular schedules. Some will be re-assigned to other duties necessitated by the closures, including communicating with the public. The decision to close public buildings to the public will be reviewed each Monday, starting March 23. A full listing of closures will be available at [www.riversideca.gov](http://www.riversideca.gov).

"This step is necessary and was not taken lightly," Mayor Rusty Bailey. "We must do our part to slow the potential spread of COVID-19 so that our medical facilities are not overwhelmed by more cases in the future."

The declaration of local emergency will not affect the work schedules of Police, Fire, and Riverside Public Utilities employees whose work is required to provide the city with water and power.

The City will cancel many scheduled public events at city facilities. Refunds of special event fees will be issued to organizations that previously paid fees for the cancelled events.

[Online services](#), including permitting and bill payments, will remain available; bills may also be paid by phone, or by mail. Utility payments centers will have drop boxes available at the Orange Street facility downtown and at a facility in the Casa Blanca neighborhood. No utility shut-offs will be undertaken at least until the end of April, and late payments will be accepted without penalty.

The declaration of local emergency allows City Manager Al Zelinka to better prepare the city by purchasing supplies, materials and equipment without going through normally-required bidding requirements. The declaration is expected to be ratified by the Riverside City Council on Tuesday, March 17. If ratified, the declaration of local emergency must be reviewed every 30 days until the local emergency is terminated.

“Riverside residents need to know that their local government is taking steps to keep them safe,” Mayor Pro Tem Erin Edwards said. “We have a strong team in place that will continue to monitor the situation locally, across the state and the nation to ensure we are taking the proper steps moving forward.”

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 comes as local, state and federal governments are working in an attempt to control the spread of COVID-19 across the country, in order to reduce the potential of the virus to overwhelm the nation’s healthcare agencies. President Trump declared a national emergency today.

Gov. Newsom declared a state of emergency on March 4. County Public Health Officer Dr. Cameron Kaiser on Thursday ordered the cancellation of public gatherings of [250 people or more](#) in Riverside County. Gov. Newsom included that recommendation in a series of preferred measures he released Wednesday evening. He also called for limiting gatherings of people who are at higher risk for COVID-19 to 10 people or fewer, and for delaying or canceling meetings where attendees cannot observe at least six feet of “social distancing” from one another.

There are eight cases of COVID-19 involving Riverside County residents, two of which involve Riverside County residents who are infected but have not returned to the area. The County Board of Supervisors unanimously ratified a local public health emergency declaration on Tuesday.

The City of Riverside is still holding its scheduled meeting on Tuesday, March 17. Many items that were scheduled to be heard that day have been removed from the agenda. A scheduled hearing on a on the property of St. Michael’s

Episcopal Church remains on the agenda for the portion of the meeting that starts at 6:15 p.m.

Other public meetings could be cancelled or delayed in the near future, including City Council meetings. At meetings that do occur, attendees will be encouraged to cover their mouths when coughing, wash their hands frequently, refrain from touching their faces, and stay at least six feet away from another person.

The six-foot social distancing recommendation is likely going to limit the number of people who can simultaneously attend a City Council meeting to about 50. City officials are determining how best to utilize the Council Chambers and the nearby lobby of City Hall when needed. Residents who want to weigh in on issues before the City Council but do not want to attend a public meeting are encouraged to use the “e-comment” feature [HERE](#).

The City is encouraging residents to educate themselves about the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), including how to protect themselves and their families, by reviewing a new city webpage devoted to the topic. The webpage – [RiversideCA.gov/COVID-19](https://RiversideCA.gov/COVID-19) -- is stocked with the latest information about the virus, which recently was described for the first time as a pandemic by the World Health Organization. WHO defines a pandemic as the worldwide spread of a new disease for which most people do not have immunity.

More than 1,629 people are infected with the virus in the U.S. and 41 people have died, according to the federal [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](https://www.cdc.gov) (CDC). The Riverside County Department of Public Health remains the lead agency locally. Links to these agencies’ websites and many others at the local, state and federal levels can be found on the [city’s website](#). Topics on those linked websites include how to prevent the spread of COVID-19, what symptoms to look out for, and planning toolkits for businesses concerned about the health of their employees and customers.

Information is being regularly provided to two numbers -- 311 and 911 – that residents call for information or when they have an emergency, respectively. Riverside residents are encouraged to sign up for [RiversideAlert.com](https://RiversideAlert.com) for critical City messages and alerts.



STAY CONNECTED:



SUBSCRIBER SERVICES:

[Unsubscribe from all topics](#) | [Help](#)

cc Mayor  
City Council  
City Manager  
City Attorney  
ACMs  
DCMs  
PRCS Director

**From:** linda goodman <puppydogteacher@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Friday, May 29, 2020 11:24 AM

**To:** Nicol, Colleen <CNicol@riversideca.gov>

**Subject:** [External] Fireworks on Mt. Rubidoux

To Whom it may concern:

I live on Indian Hill road in Riverside. I have lived at my house since 1984. I am writing to let you know that I am more than opposed to the fireworks on Mt. Rubidoux. We have had 2 large fires in less than 3 years because of the homeless in the river bottom. I am disabled and have a dog, Being evacuated twice from my home and separated from my dog is something I never want to happen again.

When I read that the council had decided to forego the fireworks, this year, I was thrilled beyond description! Two days later I read that a council person ( not my council person) wants to change the vote and have the July 4th fireworks on Mt. Rubidoux this year, I was furious. He does not represent this neighborhood. If he did, he would know how horrible his idea is and the residents of this historic district would most likely want him removed from the council!

We were all thrilled that we would not have to face the living hell of fires on July 4 that threaten all of our homes. In less than three years, I have been evacuated twice because of fires in the river bottom, started by the homeless. That I know is another story but fire is fire and evacuation is horrifying! I implore the city of Riverside to stop terrorizing our Historic District each and every year with the threat of fires every fourth of July.

Hold the display at a safer location. For example, Fairmount Park! There are parking lots there, so the streets are not blocked by parked cars on a one lane street with no exit. The end of Indian Hill Road that goes to Buena Vista, is permanently blocked. Our street is jam packed with cars everywhere with no way out! That should not even be legal! Social distancing is still recommended for COVID19. There is no room to social distance on Indian Hill Road

The city has not maintained the weeds growing on Indian Hill Road nor have they maintained Loring park that butts up to my property and is the place to be first hit by a flying ember. I am disabled and cannot do anything to protect myself! There are lakes at Fairmount park, so if a fire starts, there is a huge water supply to put it out!

If the council person is so hot have fire works displays, let him have them in his own ward - not ours. He does not represent me, nor my neighbors, nor our hard fought for Historic District. I have lived in Riverside since 1969. Enough is enough. I am not willing to sacrifice, my safety, my security, my historic district, my house, my life, my dog's life nor anything else for a, display of war that could safely take place in Fairmount park!

Linda Goodman  
Indian Hill Road, Riverside, 92501  
951-784-9070

cc Mayor  
City Council  
City Manager  
City Attorney  
ACMs  
DCMs  
PRCS Director

**From:** Steven Lawson <[stevevwords@yahoo.com](mailto:stevevwords@yahoo.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 27, 2020 4:08:19 PM  
**To:** Edwards, Erin <[EEwards@riversideca.gov](mailto:EEwards@riversideca.gov)>  
**Cc:** Zelinka, Al <[azelinka@riversideca.gov](mailto:azelinka@riversideca.gov)>; Bailey, Rusty <[RBailey@riversideca.gov](mailto:RBailey@riversideca.gov)>; Hemenway, Steve <[SHemenway@riversideca.gov](mailto:SHemenway@riversideca.gov)>; Fierro, Ronaldo <[RFierro@riversideca.gov](mailto:RFierro@riversideca.gov)>; Melendrez, Andy <[ASMelendrez@riversideca.gov](mailto:ASMelendrez@riversideca.gov)>; Conder, Chuck <[CConder@riversideca.gov](mailto:CConder@riversideca.gov)>; Plascencia, Gaby <[GPlascencia@riversideca.gov](mailto:GPlascencia@riversideca.gov)>; Perry, Jim <[JPerry@riversideca.gov](mailto:JPerry@riversideca.gov)>  
**Subject:** [External] Fireworks

Hi Erin Edwards and All City Council Members,

Thank you for your hard work on behalf of residents. You face some tough decisions. At this time of fear, isolation, frustration, and change we need something steady, familiar, fun, family-friendly, and safe. Couldn't the Fourth of July fireworks show atop Mt Rubidoux be the balm we need? Some thoughts for you to consider:

**Budget:** The benefit for something the entire city can enjoy seems to outweigh the relatively minimal cost.

**Fire Safety:** Brush needs to be cleared whether there are fireworks or not. The risk will be there July 5 and July 6 and onward. In fact, if there are no July 4 fireworks atop Mt. Rubidoux more individuals/families will ignite their own fireworks all over the city, all week long INCREASING the fire risk everywhere and creating pockets of people less likely to practice social distancing. Isn't clearing the brush around Mt. Rubidoux something that should be budgeted and done as a high priority for the safety of the city whether we have fireworks or not?

**Social Distancing:** Viewers of a Mt Rubidoux fireworks show will not be congregated at one location. People will be spread out in backyards, on street corners, and in lots throughout the city. Fireworks atop Mt. Rubidoux are the perfect way to have the most people possible safely celebrate while social distancing.

**Evergreen Cemetery/Bonominio Park Crowds:** People do congregate in these places. Either close both or limit/control access. In San Francisco the city has drawn chalk circles on lawns at parks to encourage social distancing. Only one household/family group is allowed in each circle and visiting other circles is discouraged. If San Francisco can do it, so can Riverside.

**Evergreen Event:** The biggest risk factor would likely be the Evergreen celebration. Evergreen could forgo the booths and entertainment. Instead, if it is legal, they could take donations or a fee for a viewing spot clearly marked with chalk circles on the lawns. Thank you for being sensitive to Evergreen's needs, particularly my Ward One representative Erin Edwards.

**Health Risk/Safety:** People are out and about. July 4 is a month away. This is not a typical event in a stadium or one central crowd location. People would be spread out across the city. It would be a show in the air overhead or on the horizon much like the airplanes flying in the skies on Memorial



Day. Thank you for your concern for our safety, but all these factors seem to make this setup very low risk--less risky than standing in line at WalMart or visiting the Saturday Farmer's Market.

The budget and fire risk objections seem to be something the city can and should handle. The health risk/safety concerns seem minimal and manageable.

I support Fireworks atop Mt Rubidoux on July 4. We need something like this at this challenging time--something good, relatively safe, and fun for families in the entire city!

Thank you for your time.

Steven Lawson, Ward One resident

cc Mayor  
City Council  
City Manager  
City Attorney  
ACMs  
DCMs  
PRCS Director

**From:** [steven.kesilis@gmail.com](mailto:steven.kesilis@gmail.com) <[steven.kesilis@gmail.com](mailto:steven.kesilis@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Thursday, May 28, 2020 11:35:42 AM

**To:** Edwards, Erin <[EEwards@riversideca.gov](mailto:EEwards@riversideca.gov)>

**Subject:** [External] Fourth of July Fireworks

Good Day –

Once upon a time, fireworks were discharged over the lake in Fairmount Park. In today's world, there would be no brush clearance necessary. And the park is big enough around that distancing is practical.

For your consideration.

Steven Kesilis

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

cc Mayor  
City Council  
City Manager  
City Attorney  
ACMs  
DCMs  
PRCS Director

**From:** Venita Jorgensen <[kvenitaj@att.net](mailto:kvenitaj@att.net)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 27, 2020 3:33:07 PM  
**To:** Edwards, Erin <[EEwards@riversideca.gov](mailto:EEwards@riversideca.gov)>  
**Subject:** [External] Fireworks Decision

Dear Erin,

In deciding how to vote on this issue, I think you should consider that not having a fireworks display will mean that some folks will buy more illegal fireworks. We already have several days of illegal fireworks being used either side of July 4th. This is a holiday of great symbolic significance to many who already feel that things are being taken away from them. A little tolerance might help and the cost is not that great. Many feel entitled to a fireworks show on the Fourth. I suggest a modest display and rigorous enforcement of the regulation against illegal fireworks.

Respectfully  
Venita Jorgensen  
4435 Mission Inn Ave  
Riverside, CA 92501  
[kvenitaj@att.net](mailto:kvenitaj@att.net)

cc Mayor  
City Council  
City Manager  
City Attorney  
ACMs  
DCMs  
PRCS Director

**From:** Clair Miles <[clairmariemiles@gmail.com](mailto:clairmariemiles@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 27, 2020 3:57 PM

**To:** 2Mayor <[2MAYOR@riversideca.gov](mailto:2MAYOR@riversideca.gov)>

**Subject:** [External]

Good Afternoon,

This message is in regards to the Mt. Rubidoux 4th of July fireworks show that I was relieved to hear had been canceled for this year. However, I have just been informed that the city is reconsidering going forward with the traditional show. As a longtime resident of the downtown area, I have to say how concerned I am for people's safety because of the coronavirus.

I live at the corner of Mission Inn and Pine. My neighbor next door is a ninety year old senior. In the past we have been more than happy to share our neighborhood with the large crowds of people that show up to watch this special event. However, this is not a normal year, and these are extenuating circumstances.

You can bet that if the show goes on as normal, that there will be large crowds, people will not social distance or wear masks, and the virus is will spread.

I strongly urge you to vote NO. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,  
Clair Miles-Parker  
(951) 662-2097  
4406 Mission Inn Ave.  
Riverside, CA 92501

cc Mayor  
City Council  
City Manager  
City Attorney  
ACMs  
DCMs  
PRCS Director