

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 19, 2020 a Minimal Staffing Order was issued 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 and continued for 30-days on May 26, 2020.

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. The City is working on a “Return to Work Plan”, which is currently under review. Additional time is needed to complete and implement the Plan to enable staff to return to work in a safe manner and consistent with the stages outlined in the Governor’s Resilience Roadmap.

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 and require further review:

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. Most recently reviewed and extended for 30-days by City Council on May 26, 2020
 - d. Next review by City Council on June 16, 2020

2. Order to provide for minimum staffing in order to slow down the spread of COVID-19 amongst City Staff:
 - a. Issued March 19, 2020.
 - b. Ratified by the City Council on March 31, 2020
 - c. Most recently reviewed and extended for 30-days by City Council on May 26, 2020
 - d. Next review by City Council on June 16, 2020

FISCAL IMPACT:

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

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Attachment: Minimum Staffing Order – March 19, 2020