

City of Arts & Innovation

City Council Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL **DATE: JUNE 30, 2020**

FROM: COUNCILMEMBER RONALDO FIERRO **WARDS: ALL**
COUNCILWOMAN GABRIELA PLASCENCIA

**SUBJECT: REVIEW OF EXISTING GROCERY AND PHARMACY RETAIL PROTECTIONS
RELATED TO COVID-19 AND DISCUSSION OF EXTENDING TO ALL RETAIL
WITHIN CITY LIMITS.**

ISSUE:

Review of current COVID-19 protections in place for grocery and pharmacy retail stores and discussion of potentially expanding the order to extend protections for all retail establishments.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the City Council:

1. Receive and file update on existing protections for grocery and pharmacy retail workers under Resolution No 23569 adopted on April 21st, 2020; and
2. Continue these protections to the retail establishments within city limits and return in 60 days for further review; and
3. Discuss whether to extend these requirements to all retail establishments.

BACKGROUND:

The City, pursuant to the police powers delegated to it by the Constitution of the State of California, has the authority to enact laws which promote the public health, safety and general welfare of its residents.

In accordance with Municipal Code Chapter 9.20.260, the City Council is empowered to enact ordinances, resolutions or rules to prevent against, mitigate and prepare for aid in the response or recovery to all such foreseeable or unforeseeable emergencies and disasters. During a local emergency the City Council may promulgate orders and regulations necessary to provide for the protection of life and property, such orders and regulations and amendments and rescissions thereof shall be in writing and shall be given widespread publicity and notice.

The novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic is an unprecedented global emergency.

On March 4, 2020, California Governor Gavin Newsom declared a State of Emergency due to the threat of COVID-19.

On March 8, 2020, the Riverside County Public Health Officer declared a local health emergency based on the imminent threat to public health from the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Riverside County.

On March 17th, 2020, the City of Riverside City Council ratified a local emergency in response to COVID-19.

On March 19th, 2020, California Governor Newsom put in place a statewide Stay at Home order closing down all but essential businesses and ordering over 40 million Californians to stay at home.

On April 5th, 2020, the County Public Health Officer ordered that all residents leaving their homes to wear face coverings when outside and prohibited all public gatherings.

On May 11th, the Riverside County Board of Supervisors voted to rescind all local public health orders, including the face mask requirement, claiming that the rescissions would streamline the reopening process.

DISCUSSION:

On April 21st, the Riverside City Council passed Resolution No. 23569 aimed at enhancing efforts to safeguard public health and provide safety and protections for frontline workers and customers.

The resolution specifically enacted the following:

- 50% Limited Capacity
- Social Distancing Requirements
- Providing PPE for Employees
- No Mask, No Service Policy Encouraged

The resolution thus far has provided needed support and consistency for frontline workers that have an increased chance of contracting the virus and increasing community spread. This has become particularly relevant with the rescission of health orders by the County of Riverside.

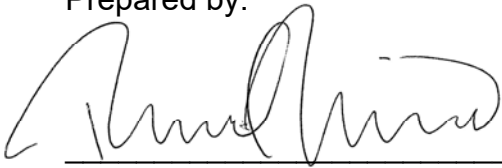
However since the adoption of this resolution, most business sectors have reopened in some form, including restaurants, retail, bars and personal care services. With this in mind, the City Council has the ability to extend these protections to the now opened sectors in order to provide consistent guidance.

FISCAL IMPACT:

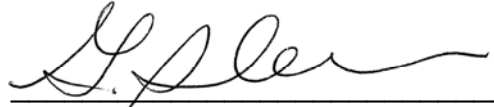
There is no expected fiscal impact of this item.

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

Prepared by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ronaldo Fierro', written over a horizontal line.

RONALDO FIERRO
City Councilmember, Ward 3

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gabriela Plascencia', written over a horizontal line.

GABRIELA PLASCENCIA
City Councilmember, Ward 5

Attachments:

1. Resolution No. 23569