



City of Arts & Innovation

City Council Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL DATE: JULY 7, 2020

FROM: AL ZELINKA WARDS: ALL
DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

SUBJECT: RATIFY THE ORDER OF THE DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES TO
EXTEND THE GRACE PERIOD FOR ENTERTAINMENT BUSINESSES TO APPLY
FOR AN ENTERTAINMENT PERMIT TO OCTOBER 31, 2020 DUE TO THE
PROCEDURES PUT IN PLACE TO SLOW DOWN THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

ISSUE:

Ratify the Order of the Director of Emergency Services to extend the grace period for entertainment businesses to apply for an entertainment permit to October 31, 2020 due to the procedures put in place to slow down the spread of COVID-19.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council ratify the Order of the Director of Emergency Services to extend the grace period for entertainment businesses to apply for an entertainment permit to October 31, 2020 due to the procedures put in place to slow down the spread of COVID-19.

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.

BACKGROUND:

On November 5, 2019, the City Council adopted an ordinance creating Chapter 5.80 in the Riverside Municipal Code establishing an entertainment permit; and a grace period of 120 days beginning January 1, 2020, for an entertainment business to apply for a permit.

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 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, Governor Newsom issued a Stay-at-Home order for the State of California which has been modified as guided by health risk and a commitment to equity. On May 8, 2020, the order was modified to allow retail along with the infrastructure to support it. On May 12, 2020, offices, limited services, and outdoor museums were also permitted to open.

California is currently at stage 2 of the resilience roadmap stages for reopening. Most entertainment businesses will not be permitted to reopen until California reaches stage 4 of the Resilience Roadmap.

DISCUSSION:

Due to procedures put in place to slow down the spread of COVID-19, including the closure of entertainment establishments, the Director of Emergency Services of the City of Riverside issued an order to extend the grace period in which a business must obtain an Entertainment Permit pursuant to RMC Chapter 5.8 to October 31, 2020. The order was issued on June 25, 2020 and must be ratified by the City Council.

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

Attachment: Order to extend grace period for entertainment permit