



City of Arts & Innovation

City Council Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL **DATE: JANUARY 12, 2021**

FROM: AL ZELINKA **WARD: 1**
DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

**SUBJECT: RATIFY THE ORDER OF THE DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES TO
CEASE EVENING PUBLIC PARKING GARAGE OPERATIONS AND FEE
COLLECTIONS DURING STAY AT HOME ORDERS**

ISSUE:

Ratify the Order of the Director of Emergency Services to cease evening public parking garage operations and fee collections during the ongoing Stay at Home Orders.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council ratify the Order of the Director of Emergency Services ceasing evening public parking garage attendant operations and fee collections during the ongoing Stay at Home Orders.

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 exists 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 within seven days.

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 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 12, 2020, the Governor issued Executive Order N-25-20, which orders in part that "all residents are to heed any orders and guidance of state and local public health officials, including, but not limited to the imposition of social distancing measures to control the spread of COVID-19."

On March 13, 2020, President Trump declared the COVID-19 pandemic a national emergency.

On March 13, 2020, the Director of Emergency Services declared a local emergency to increase the City's efforts to protect the public from COVID-19. The City'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, the public parking garages ceased to operate during all hours as the collection of parking fees by attendants was not an essential service to public health.

On April 28, 2020, Governor Newsom announced California's Pandemic Resilience Roadmap, which includes four different stages for easing California's stay-at-home order. Stage 2 allowed the opening of certain low risk uses with adaptation and safety guidelines in place.

On May 20, 2020, the County of Riverside submitted an attestation application to Governor Newsom requesting approval for the County of Riverside to move into the later stages of Stage 2 of the Governor's Resilience Roadmap. On May 22, 2020, the Governor approved the attestation application and allowed the County of Riverside to allow specific business sectors, including dine-in restaurants and shopping centers to move into the later stages of Stage 2 of the Governor's Resilience Roadmap.

On July 1, 2020, the public parking garages returned to normal operations.

On August 4, 2020, the City Council adopted a Low-Cost Option for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Mission Inn Hotel and Spa Festival of Lights (FOL). This removed City efforts to designate FOL hours of operation thus, eradicating any FOL special event parking fees.

On October 20, 2020, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) announced that Riverside County moved back to the state's Tier One (Purple), which is the most restrictive tier that requires several types of businesses and places of worship to move outside.

On November 19, 2020, the California Department of Public Health declared a Limited Stay at Home Order effective in counties under Tier One (Purple), requiring that all activities conducted outside the residence cease between 10:00pm PST and 5:00am PST starting on November 21, 2020, at 10:00pm PST and in effect until 5:00am PST on December 21, 2020, at which time may be extended or revised as needed.

On December 3, 2020, the California Department of Public Health announced a Regional Stay at Home Order effective in regions for which Intensive Care Unit (ICU) bed capacity is less than

15%, and requiring all individuals living within the impacted Region to stay home or at their place of residence, except as necessary to conduct activities associated with the operation, maintenance, or usage of critical infrastructure.

DISCUSSION:

The operations of the public parking garages are contracted to Republic Parking Systems and the City's garages are not self-operational, thus requiring contracted attendants to collect any revenues generated during the hours of operation, as adopted by City Council in the Parking Rate and Hour Schedule.

The Parking Rate and Hour Schedule stipulates the fees and rates for public parking. As such, the public parking garages have a set weekend Evening Rate of \$5.00 per vehicle entry on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings from 9:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.

The Stay at Home Orders have reduced the business occurring after 10:00 p.m., which has significantly diminished vehicular traffic into the downtown area and parking garages. Operating the garages for the evening rate from 9:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. while there is significantly reduced night life in downtown is not practical and costly.

The attached order temporarily ceases collection of the \$5.00 per entry fee in public parking garages on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings from 9:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. during the emergency declaration while the City of Riverside is in Tier One (Purple) and the Limited Stay at Home Order declared on November 19, 2020 is applicable, and while the Southern California Region falls under the regional Stay at Home Order declared on December 3, 2020. The parking garages will continue to have evening security patrols, thus deterring vandalism and other illegal activities in these facilities.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Due to the circumstances, utilizing the last four months average parking demand in the evenings, the estimated revenue impact of ceasing the Evening Rate is approximately \$1,050 for the three-week initial period of the Regional Stay at Home Order. However, the Public Parking Fund will realize an estimated \$3,000 of personnel savings. It is currently unknown how long the Limited Stay at Home Order (curfew) and Regional Stay at Home Order will remain in place.

Prepared by: Kris Martinez, Public Works Director
Certified as to
availability of funds: Edward Enriquez, Chief Financial Officer/City Treasurer
Approved by: Rafael Guzman, Assistant City Manager
Approved as to form: Kristi J. Smith, Interim City Attorney

Attachment: Order to Cease Evening Public Parking Garage Operations, Rate Collections during Stay at Home Orders