



## CITY OF COMMERCE AGENDA REPORT

**TO:** Honorable City Council **Item No.** \_\_\_\_

**FROM:** City Manager

**SUBJECT:** City Council is to Receive an Update, and Consider Adopting a Resolution Ratifying the Proclamation of Existence of a Local Emergency (Novel Coronavirus "COVID-19")

**MEETING DATE:** March 16, 2020

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### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Evaluate options provided and direct staff to implement measures as deemed necessary, regarding administration of City services in the wake of the Coronavirus pandemic.

### **ANALYSIS:**

Novel coronavirus (COVID-19) was first detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province in China in December 2019. On January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a public health emergency of international concern. On January 31, 2020, United States Health and Human Services Secretary Alex M. Azar II declared the COVID-19 global outbreak a public health emergency for the United States. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced on February 26, 2020, that community spread of COVID-19 is likely to occur in the United States.

While the current, local situation remains stable, today's recommended actions will provide the City additional powers to coordinate local efforts and identify county, state and federal resources that may be necessary to fully address the response, in the event that the situation evolves.

What is known at this time is that the virus is spread between people primarily via respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. Symptoms of the virus include fever, cough, and shortness of breath, and infected individuals have experienced a range of outcomes, from mild sickness to severe illness and death. Based on the experience with other coronaviruses that cause severe respiratory illness, the U.S.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) currently believes that symptoms appear two (2) to fourteen (14) days after exposure.

On March 4, 2020, California Governor Newsom declared a State of Emergency to make additional resources available, formalize emergency actions already underway across multiple state agencies and departments, and help the state prepare for broader spread of COVID-19. The Governor's proclamation waives the requirement under State law to renew a local health emergency and a local emergency for the duration of the statewide emergency.

Today's action requests the City Council to consider and ratify, and find that there is a need to Proclaim a Local Emergency due to COVID-19 . If approved, the City Council's ratification of the Proclamation will (1) further ensure legal immunities for emergency actions taken by the City; (2) facilitate requests by the City and other local governments for State and Federal assistance under the State and Federal Disaster Assistance Programs; and (3) allow the City Manager, or authorized official, to take preventive measures necessary to protect and preserve public health and safety.

#### **DISCUSSION:**

The City Council is also being asked at this time to consider extending the closure of City Hall and City facilities to the public for a period of time beyond Wednesday, March 18, 2020. Staff also seeks direction from the City Council on programs scheduled for the month of April.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:**

The recommended action is exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15269(c) related to actions to prevent or mitigate an emergency, and also under the common sense exemption, in that CEQA only applies to projects that have a potential to cause a significant effect on the environment, and the acknowledgement of the existence conditions constituting a local emergency has no such potential.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT**

The estimated costs in responding to COVID-19 are unknown and will vary based on future outbreak. Current City costs are being covered by existing department appropriations. Staff will pursue federal and State reimbursement for all City costs incurred.

Respectfully submitted by: Edgar P. Cisneros, City Manager

Recommended by: Edgar P. Cisneros, City Manager

Reviewed for Fiscal Impact by: Vilko Domic, Finance Director

Reviewed by: Noel Tapia, City Attorney

Attachments:

- 1) Resolution
- 2) List of Postponed/Cancelled Programs