



Agenda Report

March 17, 2020

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: City Manager

SUBJECT: ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION RATIFYING THE CITY MANAGER'S DECLARATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Find that the proposed action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to state CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) (Common Sense Exemption); and
2. Adopt a Resolution ratifying the March 16, 2020, City Manager Declaration of a Local Emergency – Coronavirus (COVID-19) and First Supplement to the Declaration of Local Emergency

BACKGROUND:

An outbreak of pneumonia in Wuhan, China was reported to the World Health Organization ("WHO") on December 31, 2019, and an illness caused by a novel coronavirus called COVID-19 was soon identified as the cause. During the week of February 23, 2020, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") reported evidence of community spread of the virus in cases located in California, Oregon, and Washington. There is currently no vaccine to prevent COVID-19.

CDC response guidance to local health departments, including the City of Pasadena Public Health Department ("PPHD"), requires extraordinary efforts to monitor and manage ongoing COVID-19 risk including monitoring individuals who may have been exposed to COVID-19.

RESOLUTION RATIFYING DECLARATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY

March 17, 2020

Page 2 of 3

On March 4, 2020, Pasadena Public Health Director and Health Officer Dr. Ying-Ying Goh declared a local health emergency pursuant to California State Health and Safety Code recognizing COVID-19 as an imminent and proximate threat in the City of Pasadena. On the same day, the State of California and Los Angeles County Department of Public Health declared health emergencies. This action was ratified by the City Council at its regular meeting of March 9, 2020.

On March 16, 2020, the City Manager, as Director of Disaster Emergency Services pursuant to Chapter 2.370 of the Pasadena Municipal Code, declared the existence of a local emergency. A copy of the Declaration of Local Emergency ("Declaration") is attached to this agenda report. The Declaration takes effect immediately and empowers the City to more effectively respond to COVID-19, coordinate with partner agencies including Los Angeles County and City of Long Beach Health Departments, seek and utilize mutual aid, and pursue potential federal and state reimbursement for costs related to response efforts. If the local emergency is to remain in effect longer than seven days, City Council ratification of the local emergency is required.

The Director of Emergency Services has set forth the following objectives to guide the specific response of the City as this proceeds:

- Maximizing social distancing and limiting group activity that might allow spread of COVID-19;
- Maintaining a unified response consistent with actions taken by state and regional government;
- Maintaining continuity of essential governmental services while keeping City employees working, and in as safe an environment as possible, and
- Working with other governmental agencies, non-profit, private groups and others to minimize the daily impact caused by the COVID-19 related emergency.

Consistent with those objectives, the First Supplement to the Declaration of Local Emergency, a copy of which is attached to this Agenda Report, takes a number of actions, consistent with actions of the State, Los Angeles County, Los Angeles City, and other jurisdictions, including, closing bars, limiting restaurants to take out and delivery service and closing gyms, fitness centers, movie theaters, live performance venues, bowling alleys, arcades, and private social clubs. There are some narrow exemptions provided.

It is recommended that the City Council adopt a resolution ratifying the City Manager's declaration of a local emergency in response to COVID-19 and review the need for continuing the local emergency at least every 30 days until the local emergency is terminated.

RESOLUTION RATIFYING DECLARATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY

March 17, 2020

Page 3 of 3

COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATION:

The proposed action is consistent with the City Council's strategic planning goal to ensure public safety by sustaining and enhancing the City's ongoing response to COVID-19 to protect the health and safety of all those who reside, visit, or work within the City of Pasadena.

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

The actions proposed herein have been determined to be exempt from the CEQA pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3), the common sense exemption (formerly the "general rule") that CEQA applies only to projects which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA. The proposed resolution ratification does not involve any direct physical changes in the environment. Therefore, the actions proposed herein are exempt from CEQA per Section 15061(b)(3) (common sense exemption).

FISCAL IMPACT:

The future costs of responding to COVID-19 are unknown at this time due to evolving conditions. With the California state declaration of a health emergency, local COVID-19 response efforts may be eligible for state or federal reimbursement. Until there is a final determination on potential reimbursement, all expenditures will be recorded and tracked in the Health Fund and/or General Fund using existing appropriations.

Respectfully submitted,



STEVE MERMELL
City Manager

Prepared by:



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Attachments: City Council Resolution
Declaration of Local Emergency – Coronavirus (COVID-19)
First Supplement to the Declaration of Local Emergency – Coronavirus
(COVID-19)