

## Jomsky, Mark

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**From:** Paul Little <Paul@pasadena-chamber.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 16, 2020 3:19 PM  
**To:** Jomsky, Mark  
**Cc:** Mermell, Steve  
**Subject:** FW: City of Pasadena Issues Closure Orders  
**Attachments:** City of Pasadena Issues Closure Orders.docx

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Hi mark,

If there is a special meeting of the City Council related to COVID-19 and the impacts of the coronavirus locally, can you include the email below as part of public comment?

Thank you,

Paul

**From:** Paul Little  
**Sent:** Monday, March 16, 2020 12:54 PM  
**To:** 'Mermell, Steve' <smermell@cityofpasadena.net>  
**Cc:** city\_council@cityofpasadena.net; 'Duyshart, Eric' <eduyshart@cityofpasadena.net>  
**Subject:** FW: City of Pasadena Issues Closure Orders

Good morning.

Thank you for sending this information and taking the steps you are taking to safeguard our neighbors, friends and families. This is extraordinary and I know the closure orders were not taken lightly.

The COVID-19 outbreak has already had a significant impact on local businesses, many of which have seen significant drops in income already. The closure order will further impact their livelihood and ability to pay staff-as necessary as the order is and justified to face the outbreak and ensure the health and safety of all of us.

Is the City of Pasadena considering taking any measures to help your local business community weather the outbreak and continue in business once restrictions are lifted?

These are extraordinary times and, as your materials have referenced repeatedly, we are all in this together.

Are you taking steps to ensure businesses that are closed or have hours or service curtailed to help ensure the health of the public can withstand the closures and reopen when it is safe to do so? Likewise, are you taking steps to make sure employees who will not be getting paid for much of the closure period are not negatively impacted?

Can I make a few suggestions for measures that come to mind immediately:

1. Issue an order ceasing evictions of any person or family who cannot pay rent because their job is suspended and income curtailed.

2. Cease billing retail and restaurant businesses for utilities and user taxes until one month after any closure orders are lifted.
3. Encourage landlords to suspend rent payments while retail and restaurant tenants are unable to conduct business as usual.
4. Cease parking enforcement in business districts.
5. Provide a grant or no-cost loan fund that local businesses can access for emergency funds that may be needed for them to remain open. Provide a similar but separate fund for those employees and their families so they can purchase necessities such as food while they may not be collecting paychecks.
6. Provide cost-free inspections and building permits for businesses that may choose to do capital improvements, expansions or other work while their businesses are essentially on hiatus. Fast track any approvals required so no permit takes longer than 5 business days to process.
7. Rebate health, fire or other inspection fees paid by restaurants and retailers in the past year and cease any inspection fees going forward until one month after the crisis is abated.
8. Suspend take-out prohibitions related to alcohol sales so that a person who orders food can also get beer, wine or a cocktail with that to-go order.

Thank you. I know you are acting in the best interests of all of us and I am always available to assist in any way I can.

Good luck as this crisis evolves.

Paul

*Paul Little*

Paul Little  
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Paul Little

**From:** Derderian, Lisa <[lderderian@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:lderderian@cityofpasadena.net)>

**Sent:** Monday, March 16, 2020 12:04 PM

**Subject:** City of Pasadena Issues Closure Orders



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 16, 2020**

NEWS MEDIA CONTACT:

Lisa Derderian, Pasadena Public Information Officer, City Manager's Office, (626) 744-4755, [lderderian@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:lderderian@cityofpasadena.net)

## **Proclamation of Local Emergency Issued To Prevent the Spread of COVID-19**

PASADENA, Calif.—On March 16, City Manager Steve Mermell proclaimed a Local State of Emergency to empower the City to more effectively respond to the novel coronavirus disease, COVID-19. As the state continues to take aggressive action to minimize the spread of COVID-19 in our communities, the City of Pasadena affirms that health and safety measures implemented by the City are intended to meet the following objectives:

- 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
- Working with other governmental agencies, non-profits, private groups and others to minimize the daily impact caused by the COVID-19 related emergency

In doing so, all bars, gyms and fitness centers, private social clubs and sit-down restaurant service in the city will be closed to the public, immediately, with the exception of take-out and delivery services. These new restrictions are necessary to stop large numbers of people from gathering and staying in close proximity. The restrictions will be in effect until further notice. Those businesses and employers not covered by the closure order are encouraged to find ways to maximize social distancing including reducing hours and voluntary closure.

"We know how difficult these restrictions will be on small businesses in Pasadena, but public safety is our top priority," said City Manager Steve Mermell. "This is a serious situation, and the time for bold action is now. We have an obligation to act in the best interests of our community."

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