

Agenda Report

March 6, 2023

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: City Manager

SUBJECT: ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION TERMINATING THE CITY MANAGER PROCLAMATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY AND THE HEALTH OFFICER DECLARATION OF LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19

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 terminating the City Manager Proclamation of a Local Emergency and the Health Officer Declaration of a Local Public Health Emergency in response to COVID-19.

BACKGROUND:

On March 17, 2020, the City Council adopted a resolution ratifying the City Manager proclamation of a local emergency in response to COVID-19 pandemic under Pasadena Municipal Code (PMC) Chapter 2.370. The City Council additionally adopted a resolution ratifying the Pasadena Health Officer's Declaration of Local Public Health Emergency, made pursuant to California Health and Safety Code Section 101080 on March 9, 2020.

Since the start of the pandemic, the City of Pasadena has investigated 42,281 reported confirmed and probable cases; administered 42,628 vaccines; distributed 32,090 COVID-19 tests and over 100,000 pieces of personal protective equipment to the community and long-term care facilities; maintained a public data dashboard with key COVID-19 indicators; and provided guidance, site visits and assistance on health orders to nearly 3,320 outbreaks at businesses, facilities, and schools/daycares.

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As community spread of COVID-19 has decreased locally and statewide and the need for continued resources to respond to this public health crisis are now within the control of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of the City. Dr. Eric G. Handler, in his capacity as the Health Officer, has determined that there is no longer a need to continue the local public health emergency. Staff recommends the City Council adopt a resolution terminating the local public health emergency effective March 6, 2023.

City Manager Miguel Márquez recommends City Council adopt a resolution to terminate the local emergency effective March 31, 2023. During this time, staff will review and assess potential impacts on city programs and services authorized by supplemental City Council resolutions tied to the proclamation of a local emergency. Staff will present findings and recommended actions at the City Council meeting scheduled for March 27, 2023.

Terminating the local public health emergency will shift intervention measures from the Pasadena Public Health Department to individuals and their healthcare providers. The termination of the local health emergency will end the City of Pasadena pandemic response but the threat posed by COVID-19 will continue. Residents are encouraged to consider their personal and environmental risk factors to assess their risk of contracting COVID-19 and to take necessary precautions such as masking, vaccination, and social distancing to protect themselves and their loved ones.

Pasadena health officer orders are not dependent on the state or local public health emergency. Dr. Handler will provide guidance, as needed, to mitigate COVID-19 transmission. The Department will maintain a complement of staff and continue vaccine delivery, surveillance and disease reporting, and case investigations and contact tracing for COVID-19 and other infectious diseases.

COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATION:

The proposed action is consistent with the City Council's strategic planning goal to ensure public safety by providing guidance to the Pasadena community, recommending residents assess their personal and environmental risks, and take necessary precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

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 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).

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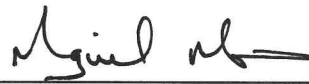
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FISCAL IMPACT:

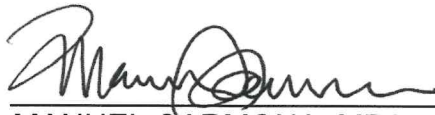
There is no financial impact as existing grant funding supports staff conducting infectious disease prevention and control. Staff have recorded emergency response activities and are pursuing Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) reimbursement of eligible costs. No additional program costs or impacts to city programs are anticipated by terminating the local public health emergency. An assessment of potential costs related to termination of the local emergency will be presented at the City Council meeting scheduled for March 27, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,



MIGUEL MÁRQUEZ
City Manager

Prepared by:



MANUEL CARMONA, MPA
Acting Director
Public Health Department

Concurred by:



LISA DERDERIAN
Emergency Management
Coordinator/PIO

Attachments: City Council Resolution