



City Council Agenda Item

City Council Meeting Date: March 17, 2020

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

FROM: Jim Throop, City Manager

SUBJECT: Discussion and Possible Actions and Emergency Orders Concerning Response to COVID-19 Virus at City Hall and at Businesses and Gatherings Throughout the City

Recommendation:

Staff recommends the City Council discuss and provide direction to staff concerning measures to be taken to protect the public and staff from infection with the COVID-19 virus.

Background:

The Coronavirus Disease 2019 or COVID-19 (formerly referred to as 2019 Novel Coronavirus or 2019-nCoV) is a new respiratory virus that was first identified in Wuhan, China in December of 2019.

The President of the United States, Donald Trump, and California Governor, Gavin Newsom, have declared states of emergency regarding the spread of the COVID-19 virus. The Governor has issued executive orders to protect the health and safety of Californians most at risk for infection.

As of this past Sunday, the Governor ordered residents to heed guidance that all gatherings of over 250 people statewide should be cancelled or postponed, and all gatherings of less than 250 people should implement social distancing measures. Further, the governor asked all bars, pubs, and wineries to close, and all restaurants to reduce capacity by 50% and implement social distancing, and encouraged all seniors over the age of 65 to isolate themselves from others and stay at home as much as possible.

As of today, the Governor and State Department of Public Health are now encouraging all restaurants to close to dine-in customers (i.e. only delivery and pickup should be allowed), and encouraging all gyms and movie theaters to close. President Trump today encouraged residents to limit social gatherings to less than 10 people.

Additionally, the state and federal governments are encouraging all residents to limit social interactions by implementing “social distancing”, washing hands regularly, and self-isolating at any sign of illness.

Discussion:

Staff requests direction from the City Council on how best to implement social distancing at City Hall and throughout the City of Lompoc. Those measures could include closing the lobby to foot traffic, directing the public to online and telephonic resources for utility bill payment, directing the public to the utility drop box located in the parking lot. As well as utility payments, the Building Counter in City Hall would also be impacted by closure of the lobby. In addition to resources for the utility payments, the City Council may direct staff to cancel all Commission and Board meetings for the foreseeable future.

Additionally, the City Council may wish to consider emergency orders to prohibit dine-in customers at restaurants and bars, require the closure of gyms and movie theaters, public curfews or stay-at-home orders, or other options as the City Council desires. The authority for these emergency orders is in section 2.36.060(A)(6) of the Lompoc Municipal Code.

Fiscal Impact:

The fiscal impact of closure of the City Hall lobby is unknown at this time.

Conclusion:

The COVID-19 virus is a serious threat to public health. Staff is ready to implement measures the City Council puts in place.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Throop, City Manager