

PROCLAMATION NO. 2020-01

A PROCLAMATION OF THE DIRECTOR OF  
EMERGENCY SERVICES DECLARING A  
LOCAL EMERGENCY EXISTS  
THROUGHOUT THE CITY

WHEREAS, pursuant to Chapter 7 of the Escondido Municipal Code, and specifically Section 7-6(a)(1), the City Manager, in his role as the Director of Emergency Services, is authorized to issue a proclamation of the existence or threatened existence of an emergency when the City Council is not in session; and

WHEREAS, at the time of this Proclamation, the City Council has adjourned to their next scheduled session noticed for Wednesday March 18, 2020; and

WHEREAS, a novel coronavirus referred to as COVID-19, which causes infectious disease, was first detected in December 2019, and has now spread throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 disease is believed to be spread through person-to-person contact between people who are in close proximity with others up to 6 feet and through respiratory droplets when a person coughs or sneezes, even when that person is asymptomatic; and

WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) there have been numerous deaths attributed to COVID-19 in the United States; and

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services declared a public health emergency related to the COVID-19 outbreak pursuant to Section 319 of the Public Health Service Act; and

WHEREAS, on February 19, 2020, the San Diego County Board of Supervisors ratified the Declaration of Local Health Emergency and Proclamation of Local Emergency arising out of the COVID-19 outbreak; and

WHEREAS, various health organizations throughout the world, including the CDC and the World Health Organization (WHO), consider the COVID-19 virus to be a very serious health threat, a “public health emergency of international concern,” and as of March 11, 2020, the WHO identified it as a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2020, California Governor Gavin Newsom proclaimed a State of Emergency to exist in the State of California as a result of the threat of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 12, 2020, Governor Newsom issued Executive order N-25-20 which, in part, took various actions pursuant to the Emergency Services Act (Government Code Sections 8550, *et. seq.*) including an order to all residents “to heed any orders and guidance of state and local public health officials, including the imposition of social distancing measures, to control the spread of COVID-19;” and

WHEREAS, according to various current public health directives, guidelines, and recommendations, gatherings of more than 50 people should be cancelled or postponed and all smaller events should proceed only if a six foot separation of participants can be observed; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, Donald J. Trump, President of the United States, issued a Proclamation on Declaring a National Emergency Concerning the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Outbreak; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the County of San Diego Office of Education announced multiple school closures effective March 16, 2020, and school districts and colleges throughout the County of San Diego initiated school closing orders for their schools for durations of approximately one month; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 virus has the potential to severely impact the necessary services performed by the City of Escondido, including the response times for police and fire department personnel, the holding of public meetings, as well as the regular functioning of City business should city staff and employees be infected or additional orders of quarantine be implemented; and

WHEREAS, the potential spread of the COVID-19 virus poses an extreme peril to the safety of persons or property within the City of Escondido and such conditions will continue to directly affect the safety of all persons within the City for the near future and are beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment and facilities of the City.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED by the Director of Emergency Services of the City of Escondido, California, as follows:

1. That the above recitations are true and correct.
2. That a local emergency currently exists, and has existed since on or about March 13, 2020, in the City of Escondido due to the continued spread of the COVID-19 virus and the collateral consequences of the virus on residents, businesses, health care providers, social service agencies, and City personnel.
3. That during the existence of this local emergency, the powers, functions and duties of the Disaster Council and Director of Emergency Services established

by Chapter 7 of the Escondido Municipal Code, those of the full City Council, and those of all City employees, including police and fire department personnel, shall be those as prescribed by state law and the ordinances and resolutions of the City of Escondido, and that said emergency proclamation shall expire seven (7) days after issuance unless confirmed and ratified by the City Council of the City of Escondido.

Dated: March 16, 2020

By:   
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Jeffrey R. Epp  
City Manager  
Director of Emergency Services  
City of Escondido