



City of Placentia Press Release

For Immediate Release

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PLACENTIA PROCLAIMS LOCAL EMERGENCY IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19

PLACENTIA, CA – The City of Placentia has declared a proclamation of local emergency due to potential public health impacts of the COVID-19 (Coronavirus). The emergency declaration supports measures to be taken to protect public health, safety and welfare within the City. The actions taken by City Council and City Administrator/Director of Emergency Services, Damien R. Arrula, provides access to additional emergency resources in the event that they are needed, as well as provides a mechanism for accessing Federal and State funding to assist in addressing this pandemic. The actions by the City are in line with what other local and regional agencies are considering or have enacted as a preventative measure to decrease the risk of community spread of Coronavirus in their communities.

The local emergency proclamation also includes a moratorium on all residential and commercial evictions for non-payment of rent for anyone who is unable to pay due to financial impacts related to Coronavirus. The moratorium will remain in place as allowed under an executive order of the Governor of California through May 31, 2020.

Residential landlords who know a tenant cannot pay rent for reasons related to Coronavirus are not allowed to serve a notice of eviction or take other actions to evict a tenant for nonpayment of rent. Commercial landlords are prohibited from evicting commercial tenants for nonpayment of rent if the businesses are limited or closed to prevent or reduce the spread of Coronavirus.

In addition, public utilities such as water and sewer service cannot be shut off because of unpaid bills and late-payment penalties or fees cannot be charged during this time.

“Our priority, first and foremost, is the health and welfare of the Placentia community. While our community centers and public facilities are valued by residents, visitors, and the public, we know that social distancing works and that these closures will help slow the spread of Coronavirus in our community,” said Mayor Ward Smith. “We ask that you to follow and exercise State and Federal orders. By respecting these preventative measures, we are protecting ourselves and each other, and doing our part to slow the progression of COVID-19.”

The declaration of Placentia’s local emergency will not affect services provided by the Placentia Police Department, Building Inspections, and Code Enforcement. The Placentia Police Department will continue to maintain a 24/7 operation responding to all calls for service as usual with some minor exceptions regarding medical aides that will adhere to recommended protocols for law enforcement personnel. As a means to limit any unnecessary contact or exposure to Coronavirus to police

employees and the community they serve, the Police Department is requesting non-life-threatening services or business to be conducted over the phone versus in person.

As a precaution to reduce community spread of Coronavirus, the City is implementing temporary changes to City operations starting Monday, March 23, 2020. A temporary City Hall reception area has been created at the front of City Hall with all services being conducted in this area. These temporary changes to operations will be in place through March 31, 2020 and will be re-evaluated at that time. These precautions are in addition to the steps that the City has already taken to be compliant with the guidance that has been received from the state and county.

“COVID-19 has touched all of our lives. With this emergency proclamation, we are looking to address the concerns of our residents and businesses. As an agency, we will continue to assess and adapt in how we provide government services during these unprecedented times. Our goal is to remain responsive to the community’s needs and to ensure the safety, security, and overall health and wellbeing for all in Placentia,” said City Administrator Damien R. Arrula.

City officials are in regular communication with public health officials at the Orange County Health Care Agency, the California Department of Public Health, the White House and Federal Departments as well as surrounding public safety officials. The City’s emergency operations team will continue to adjust practices and guidance as federal, state, and county official guidelines are updated.

The City will continue to keep the community informed by providing updates to the City website at www.placentia.org/coronavirus as information becomes available.

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