



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: City Administration – (323) 583-8811 Ext. 642

CITY OF VERNON DECLARES STATE OF EMERGENCY

Vernon, CA (March 14, 2020) – The City of Vernon has declared a local state of emergency due to the outbreak of the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). At approximately 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 14, 2020, the Honorable Mayor Melissa Ybarra, acting as the Chief Executive Officer of the Vernon Disaster Council issued Emergency Proclamation 2020-01 declaring the existence of a local emergency. The action follows declarations by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and the Department of Public Health, as well as earlier declarations by the State of California and President Trump.

The proclamation of local emergency will assist in a coordinated public health response to reduce transmission and illness severity, provide assistance to public safety and health providers, and mitigate the effects of this pandemic on the citizens, businesses, and employees of the City.

Vernon City Administrator Carlos Fandino said the Proclamation was the first of several actions his administration plans to take in the coming days as part of a response to the COVID-19 outbreak and any resulting impacts to the City. “We are following the recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and will be adjusting our operations and procedures accordingly,” said City Administrator Fandino.

In a proactive effort to minimize exposure and community spread of COVID-19, the City has cancelled all public gathering events including their “Spring Eggstravaganza” event planned for March 26, 2020 and temporarily suspended the “Abriendo Puertas-Opening Doors” parenting program hosted by the YMCA at City Hall.

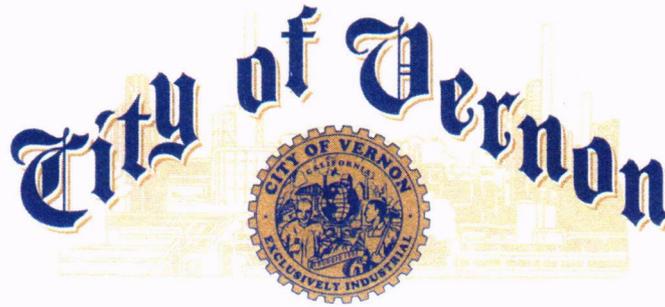
The Vernon City Council will hold a Special City Council Meeting at 9:00am on Tuesday, March 17, 2020 to consider additional preventative measures and impacts to the City as a result of COVID-19.

The City will continue to update the community as new information becomes available via our website at www.cityofvernon.org/COVID19.

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The City of Vernon was founded in 1905 to create jobs in California. Vernon’s 1,800 businesses create more than 105,000 jobs in the Los Angeles area – including 55,000 jobs within the City’s 5.2 mile boundary. The Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation designated Vernon as California’s ‘Most Business Friendly City.’ Vernon generates more than \$330 million in state income and sales taxes, \$1.1 billion in taxable spending. Vernon’s businesses provide more than 4.4 billion in salaries and wages annually for workers in Los Angeles County. For more information, go to www.cityofvernon.org.

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EMERGENCY PROCLAMATION 2020-01

A PROCLAMATION BY THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF VERNON, CALIFORNIA, ACTING AS THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE DISASTER COUNCIL, DECLARING THE EXISTENCE OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, Section 8.5 of the Vernon Municipal Code designates the Mayor as the Chief Executive Officer and Section 8.6 empowers the Vernon Chief Executive Officer to proclaim the existence or threatened existence of a local emergency when the City of Vernon is affected or likely to be affected by a public calamity and the City Council is not in session; and

WHEREAS, the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has confirmed multiple cases of individuals with severe respiratory illness caused by a Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), as well as deaths caused by the illness; and

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2020, a State of Emergency was proclaimed by Governor Gavin Newsom and the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and the Department of Public Health declared a local and public health emergency. On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) classified the spread of COVID-19 internationally as a global pandemic and on March 12, 2020, a Gathering Guidance Policy was issued by the California Department of Public Health due to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 12, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom issued Executive Order N-25-30 with orders including an order that all residents heed any orders and guidance of state and local public health officials; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Executive Officer of the City of Vernon does hereby find that conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property have arisen within said City, caused by the current confirmed cases of COVID-19 internationally, including in California and Los Angeles County, and that these conditions are or are likely to be beyond the control of the existing services, personnel, equipment and facilities of the City of Vernon; and

WHEREAS, based on the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention statements, there is an ongoing risk and probability of COVID-19 positive patients being identified in the City of Vernon; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Executive Officer of the City of Vernon finds that COVID-19 is an infectious and communicable disease, which creates a condition of extreme peril to the health and safety of persons within the City, and which is likely to be beyond the ability and resources of the City to control; and

WHEREAS, a proclamation of local emergency will assist in a coordinated public health response to reduce transmission and illness severity, provide assistance to public safety and health providers, and mitigate the effects of this pandemic on the citizens, businesses, and employees of the City; and

WHEREAS, the conditions and circumstances described above warrant and necessitate that the City proclaim the existence of a local emergency.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED by the City of Vernon Chief Executive Officer that a local emergency now exists throughout the entire City of Vernon.

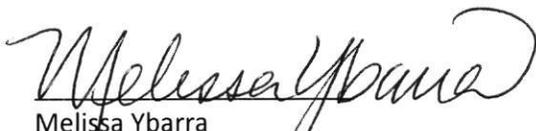
IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED, that the Chief Executive Officer of the City of Vernon authorizes the City Administrator to furnish information and enter into any necessary agreements to obtain any emergency assistance to implement necessary intervention activities to prevent a threatened epidemic of disease in the community, and to take necessary measures to protect and preserve the public health and safety from said public health hazard.

IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED, that the City Administrator is hereby authorized to make and issue policies and regulations on matters necessary to the protection of life and property within the City of Vernon and within scope of the local emergency hereby proclaimed.

IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED, that during the existence of said local emergency the powers, functions, and duties of the emergency organization of this City shall be those prescribed by state law, by ordinances, and resolutions of this City; and that this emergency proclamation shall expire seven (7) days after issuance unless confirmed and ratified by the governing body of the City of Vernon. In addition, the City Council shall review the need for continuing the local emergency at least once every 30 days until the local emergency is terminated by resolution.

IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED, that a copy of this proclamation be forwarded to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the LA County Office of Emergency Management, the State Office of Emergency Services requesting that the Director of the State Office of Emergency Services find it acceptable in accordance with State Law; that the Governor waive regulations that may hinder response and recovery efforts; that recovery assistance be made available under the California Disaster Assistance Act; and that the State expedite access to County, State and Federal resources and any other appropriate federal disaster relief programs.

DATED: March 14, 2020



Melissa Ybarra
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE DISASTER COUNCIL
Mayor, City of Vernon