

DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES/CITY MANAGER EMERGENCY ORDER NO.1

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has stated that based on current information a novel coronavirus named “COVID-19” is a serious public health threat;

WHEREAS, a complete clinical picture of this respiratory disease is not yet fully understood;

WHEREAS, on March 3, 2020, and pursuant to Section 101080 of the California Health and Safety Code, the San Mateo County Health Officer (the “Health Officer”) declared a local health emergency throughout San Mateo County related to the novel coronavirus (“COVID-19”);

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors ratified and extended this declaration of local health emergency;

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2020, the Governor of the State of California declared a state of emergency to help the state prepare for the spread of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, the San Mateo County Health Officer issued a statement on March 10, 2020, that evidence exists of widespread community transmissions of COVID-19 in San Mateo County;

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 constituted a world pandemic;

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the City Council of the City of Menlo Park declared a local emergency based on the current COVID-19 world pandemic;

WHEREAS, on March 14, 2020, the Health Officer prohibited all public or private gatherings of 50 or more people and urged the cancelation of all gatherings of 10 or more people in a single confined space;

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, the Health Officer issued an order that, among other things, directs all individuals currently living within San Mateo County to shelter in their place of residence (“Shelter-in-Place Order”), and authorizes individuals to leave their residences only for certain “Essential Activities,” Essential Governmental Functions,” or to operate “Essential Businesses,” all as defined in the Shelter-in Place;

WHEREAS, on March 19, 2020, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order No. N-33-20 ordering all individuals in the State of California to stay home or at their place of residence except as needed to maintain continuity of operations of the federal critical infrastructure sectors; and

WHEREAS, the Governor empowered local cities to take actions to preserve and protect the health and safety of their communities in light of their own circumstances;

WHEREAS, building construction requires regular inspection services to ensure that completed work complies with both issued permits and applicable building standards and waiving such inspections increases the risk of defective and unsafe construction;

WHEREAS, the City has extremely limited construction inspection services and protective gear to prevent inspectors from contaminated job sites and the Federal and State governments have requested that such protective gear be preserve for essential health workers;

WHEREAS, the Council desires to do what it can to help slow the spread of COVID-19, reduce the load on local hospitals and emergency rooms, prevent unnecessary deaths and preserve construction inspection services and the related administrative resources for the most critical projects;

WHEREAS, the Council also recognizes that housing is indeed a priority for our community and the region, but the immediacy of curbing the current health emergency must take precedence to prevent further spread of the virus;

WHEREAS, the Council desires to resume housing construction at the earliest opportunity; and

WHEREAS, during the existence of this local emergency, pursuant to Municipal Code Chapter 2.44, the City Manager as Director of Emergency Services is empowered to make and issue rules and regulations on matters reasonably related to the protection of life and property as affected by such emergency.

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Manager does hereby make the following order:

1. Effective immediately and until this order is terminated by the City Manager, all construction activity in the City of Menlo Park shall be temporarily suspended.
2. The City Manager will regularly review the need for this order to be in place and may elect to modify it should local circumstances or applicable law change.
3. Upon approval of the City Manager, construction activity in the government facilities and water and wastewater systems sector may be performed provided adequate social distancing mitigation measures can be achieved during both construction and inspection work.
4. The City Manager or designee may authorize limited exceptions to Section 1 of this order to protect life, health or safety provided they are consistent with Executive Order No. N-33-20 and/or subsequent applicable State or County orders.

Dated: 3/23/2020

DocuSigned by:
Starla Jerome Robinson
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City Manager