

DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES/CITY MANAGER EMERGENCY ORDER NO.4

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 issue 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;

WHEREAS, on March 23, 2020, the Director issued the City of Menlo Park Director of Emergency Services/City Manager Order (“Order”) No. 1 temporarily suspending all construction activity in the City of Menlo Park. The Order was based in part on the City’s lack of personal protective gear (PPE) to protect its employees from the spread of the COVID 19 virus, the lack of established construction project safety protocols and the inability of adequate supervision and deployment of building inspectors;

WHEREAS, recognizing the need to continue to limit the transmission of COVID-19, on April 29, 2020, the County Health Officer ordered the shelter-in-place to continue through May 31, 2020. However, the order also allows some businesses to open that could not operate under the

previous order and allows some low-risk activities to resume (e.g. outdoor businesses, landscapers and gardeners). Specifically, with regard to construction, the order allows for construction so long as the project complies with specific safety protocols;

WHEREAS, given the County of San Mateo’s recent publication of construction project safety protocols, to the extent the city is able to provide sufficient PPE and building inspector personnel, the City Manager would like to re-activate construction activity in the city with a phased in approach giving priority to projects that were already scheduled for an inspection the first week of the shut down (3/16 - 3/20), existing projects that have been granted emergency status, any project that effects the livability of the house (water heater, furnace, plumbing repair, sewer main, water piping, etc.) and other single family residential projects and public works projects. Thereafter providing the city has adequate PPE and inspector capacity it would begin scheduling inspections for multi-family and commercial projects starting; 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 Director of Emergency Services does hereby make the following order:

1. Effective 11:59 p.m. on May 3, 2020 Order Number 1 is hereby rescinded and superseded by this Order No. 4.
2. Construction activity in the City will be permitted to resume provided it complies with the applicable construction project safety protocol published in the County of San Mateo Health Officer Order dated April 29, 2020.
3. The City Manager reserves the right to modify this order if any of the following conditions occur:
 - a. The City is not able to secure adequate PPE for its building inspectors;
 - b. The City is not able to provide sufficient building inspectors to satisfy the demand;
 - c. Construction projects are not complying with the required safety protocols;
 - d. The number of COVID 19 cases increases significantly;
 - e. Other operational constraints make building inspection unsafe or infeasible.

Dated: 5/1/2020

DocuSigned by:

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 City Manager

Approved as to Form:
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 Interim City Attorney