



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 12, 2020

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State of Emergency Proclaimed in Milpitas for COVID-19

Milpitas City Council will consider the City Manager's proclamation on Tuesday, March 17

Milpitas, Calif. – Milpitas Interim City Manager Steve McHarris signed a Proclamation of Local Emergency today based on the rapidly evolving challenges to protect public health and safety related to the spread of COVID-19. The City joins the State of California, County of Santa Clara, and many other cities in taking this step.

The emergency proclamation will be considered for ratification by the Milpitas City Council at its next meeting next week on Tuesday, March 17. The proclamation now enables the City to take additional legal, operational, and recovery measures that may be needed to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic that is affecting communities in Santa Clara County and across the nation.

By declaring a local state of emergency, Milpitas will open a partial activation of the City's Emergency Operation Center (EOC). This step will enhance the City's collaboration and communications across departments, its ability to receive updates from the field and from partners and improve coordination with external agencies. The EOC will be activated at 8AM, Friday, March 13, and it will operate 8AM- 5PM Monday-Friday and will be remotely monitored 24 hours per day, seven days a week.

California Governor Gavin Newsom declared a State of Emergency on March 4 to help the state prepare for the rapidly spreading COVID-19. The County of Santa Clara made declaration of a State of Emergency on February 10.

The City continues to modify current public services and operations as conditions warrant. It has transitioned its Senior Meals Program to a take-home packaged meal format, and the City has canceled multiple community programs and events in accordance with recommendations and requirements from Santa Clara County Department of Public Health.

[more]

For a comprehensive list affected programs, [please see the City's dedicated webpage on changes to City Services](#). City services and operations that remain unchanged at this time include police, fire, garbage and recycling, parks, and development services and the permits center.

All regular Milpitas City Council and Commission meetings are currently scheduled to continue as planned. Residents can watch livestreams of Council and Planning Commission meetings that are available at the City's [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#) pages. The City has also created special forms to allow for online public comment during the meetings. These forms will be linked in the meetings' livestream.

The week of March 16 will be a transition period for the in-person permit process at the City's Permit Center. During this transition period, walk-in customers will continue to be served, but will be notified that services will be provided by appointment only effective Monday, March 23.

Customers are strongly encouraged to interact with City staff via telephone or web conference to ask their permit process questions and discuss their projects. The Permit Center accepts permit applications online, processes plan submittals and issues permits online. City staff is currently developing a detailed plan for additional changes in services and will publish it at the Permit Center, City website, and social media.

The City's updated Pandemic Response plan identifies modified work options for staff that include teleworking and teleconferencing. City departments are currently identifying job classifications that have duties and responsibilities suitable for working remotely, which includes assessing the availability of technology and other equipment to perform those duties. These steps can reduce potential staff and public exposures to the novel coronavirus, and implementation is planned to begin next week.

The City encourages the public to continue checking public health information websites, including the [CDC](#), [Santa Clara County](#), and [City of Milpitas](#), for COVID-19 updates, and to take appropriate measures to observe social distancing and other risk reduction steps that can slow the spread of the disease and protect the people of our community.

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About the City of Milpitas

Located at the southern end of San Francisco Bay, Milpitas is a progressive community that is an integral part of Silicon Valley. A full-service city with water utility, sewer utility, police and fire services, Milpitas celebrates an incredibly diverse population of nearly 80,000. The City has seen a significant increase in recent development activity and expects the Milpitas BART station and transit center to open in 2020, which will serve as a key local and regional connection to the high-tech, job-rich northwestern areas of Santa Clara County. Under a Council-Manager form of government, the City Council has established the following seven priority areas of service and policy: public safety, environment, transportation and transit, economic development and job growth, neighborhoods and housing, community wellness and open space, and governance and administration.

More information at: <http://www.ci.milpitas.ca.gov/>