



Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR
AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Raymond Riordan
Director

**SUBJECT: POLICY MODIFICATIONS
RELATED TO TERMINATING
THE COVID-19 EMERGENCY**

DATE: May 23, 2023

Approved

Date

5/26/23

INFORMATION

Ensuring the public safety of our residents and continuity of essential services during the COVID – 19 emergency was a high priority.

This memorandum provides clarification on the policies that were implemented during COVID-19 response and whether they have already been terminated, will continue, or were terminated with the May 16, 2023 City Council action to terminate the Director of Emergency Services' March 6, 2020, Proclamation of the Existence of a Local Emergency for COVID-19 Response.

BACKGROUND

In response to the public health emergency caused by the spread of the novel Corona Virus (or COVID-19), on March 4, 2020, the City partially activated its Emergency Operations Center and began scaling up resources and response in preparation for event and facility closures, increased telecommuting/ work-from-home capacity for employees, augmentation of communication to employees and coordination with partner agencies, as well as other work-place and policy and program modifications to ensure the continuity of City operations while protecting the safety of our employees, providing effective communication, and supporting the County. The County expanded its guidance, and the City escalated its Pandemic Response.

On March 6, 2020, the City Manager, as Director of Emergency Services, Proclaimed the Existence of a Local Emergency. On March 10, 2020, the City Council ratified the proclamation. The City Council extended the emergency every 60 days until August 18, 2021. At that time, the California Office of Emergency Services advised the City that the State and Federal declarations included the City of San José, and continued actions to extend were not required. The Emergency Operations Center remained active until June 30, 2022. The City continued close coordination with the County of Santa Clara Public Health Department to ensure the delivery of public health services to the underserved communities. On February 28, 2023,

Governor Newsom issued a proclamation ending the state's COVID-19 State of Emergency. On April 10, 2023, President Biden signed a bill that immediately terminated the national emergency, with the underlying public health emergency expiring on May 11, 2023. On May 16, 2023, the City Council terminated the March 6, 2020, Director of Emergency Services' Proclamation of the Existence of a Local Emergency.

POLICY AND PROGRAM ACTIONS

During the active response period, the City took action to modify City policies and programs that would ensure protection of the public and ensure continuity of essential services during the public health emergency.

Completed Policies and Programs

The following policies and programs have been completed or terminated over the last year:

- Rent Moratorium
- Emergency Rental Assistance Program
- Establishing Childcare/Learning Pods
- Improving City Facilities to enhance sanitation
- Planning Permit Term Extension
- Local Assistance Program
- Shelter Crisis Program
- Grocery Store Employee Hazard Premium Pay Ordinance
- Waiver of Charter Bidding and Procurement Requirements
- Vaccination Coordination Support
- Airport Incentive Program

Policies Ending with the End of the Emergency

The following policies terminated with the City Council action, or shortly after, as noted:

- Construction Hour Extension terminated with the end of the emergency. Large project development contractors of 50 units or more, or more than 50,000 square feet were allowed extended days and hours of construction time.
- Commercial and Industrial Delivery extension terminated with the end of the emergency. To support the Construction Hour Extension, delivery hours were expanded to allow for commercial deliveries.
- The current Al Fresco program will terminate by June 30, 2023. This policy extended the ability to conduct outdoor business operations on streets closed to vehicular traffic, which allowed restaurant operations on sidewalks or parklets. The Office of Economic Development will return to City Council in June to describe next steps in the program.
- Food Distribution will continue until June 30, 2023, using Community Development Block Grant funds. The program will return as a Santa Clara County operation.

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

May 23, 2023

Subject: Policy Modifications Related to Terminating the COVID-19 Emergency

Page 3

Policies and Programs Continuing

The following policy adjustments will continue beyond the termination of a Local Emergency and have been integrated into department operations and budgets:

- BeautifySJ to address the blight in the community and debris cleanup;
- Hybrid Meeting Improvements to allow for virtual public participation in the City Council meetings; and
- Emergency Interim Housing Development to continue site development, planning, design, and implementation of future sites.

/s/

Raymond Riordan

Director, City Manager's Office of Emergency
Management

For questions, please contact Raymond Riordan, Director of Emergency Management at ray.riordan@sanjoseca.gov or (408) 794-7050.

