

## A PERSONAL UPDATE MESSAGE FROM PICO RIVERA MAYOR GUSTAVO CAMACHO REGARDING THE CORONAVIRUS COVID 19 VIRUS

Dear Pico Rivera Residents, Stakeholders and Supporters:

Last week I shared with you the preliminary measures undertaken by the City of Pico Rivera in response to the Coronavirus Virus (COVID 19) and I wanted to provide you updated information regarding our next actions. The City feels it has a critical responsibility to prioritize the health and safety of our residents and employees and to be proactive at this time in our efforts to prevent the spread of this unprecedented and unpredictable virus. The Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) is a new, viral disease that produces symptoms similar to the flu or pneumonia.

As our country grapples with how to respond to the Coronavirus Virus, I am proud of our city staff that continue to serve our residents by providing exemplary city services every day to protect you. After all, the health, safety and well-being of you our residents and employees is our primary goal.

Given that priority the City Council and staff are actively monitoring the COVID -19 epidemic, and working closely with the [Los Angeles County Department of Public Health](#) (Public Health) and other agencies to remain prepared to serve our community. I want to personally assure you that the City Council and staff will continue to take a series of additional definitive actions over the next few days to ensure our residents, families and employees remain safe during this time of crisis.

### City Council Emergency Meeting – Response to COVID 19

The City Council met this week to consider, approve and coordinate a citywide response to the COVID 19 Virus to protect the health and safety of our residents and employees. The approved actions included:

- The City Council approved an Emergency Declaration in response to the COVID Virus
- Utilities policy (connections, shut offs)
  - There will be no service interruption at this time which includes no shut offs or late fees being assessed during this time for any utility.
  - Please note: The Pico Water District acts independently and the City has no jurisdiction over it, however we understand they will be doing the same.
- Parking Enforcement
  - The City Council approved the temporary suspension of parking enforcement citations for street sweeping services and provided flexibility in permitting the time period allowed for parking on City streets.
  - The City Council directed the appropriate enforcement authorities to provide warnings in lieu of citations, except in the case of parking violations related to illegal red curb parking, designated disabled parking or any other egregious parking violations or continuous violations which

- occur after warnings have been given.
- The City Council also directed flexibility be provided to pay parking tickets (late fees will be waived during this time)
- Code enforcement
  - The City Council approved where reasonably appropriate, the City will relax or adjust code enforcement proceedings to allow for necessary repairs to be implemented recognizing the effects of COVID-19 and the ability to bring into compliance required code enforcement repairs or corrections.
  - The City Council directed Code Enforcement to focus on addressing core issues related to public health and quality of life
- Price Gouging
  - Price gouging is prohibited and is governed by California Penal Code 396 and the Los Angeles County Price Gouging Ordinance. For 30 days following the declaration of emergency, it is illegal for a person, contractor, or business to sell or offer to sell any food items or goods or service for a price of more than 10 percent above the price charged by that person or business immediately before the declaration of emergency was issued.
  - The Pico Rivera App will be updated to provide information regarding price gouging and how to report it to the proper authorities.
  - The City Council directed Code Enforcement staff be reallocated to assist enforce compliance with state price gouging statute.
- Residential and Commercial Eviction Moratorium
  - The City Council approved to the extent legally possible, the City shall join and work cooperatively with all State and County authorities to support any moratoriums imposed for residential and commercial tenant evictions caused by the inability for tenants to meet their contractual obligations as a result of the COVID-19 circumstances
- Reallocation of Resources
  - Where possible, the City Manager will evaluate the potential to reallocate resources to supplement reduction in services or provide the public with the necessary information on where additional County, State, or Federal resources can be found.

## Status of Special City Events and Facility Usage

At this time, all city events and gatherings will be postponed or cancelled through Sunday, April 5th, at which time we will reassess the health environment and whether these temporary cancellations will be extended. We will continue to monitor, reassess, and respond accordingly as this is a rapidly evolving situation. In addition to any city hosted events, we are also cancelling all non-city hosted events and gatherings which were scheduled to take place at city facilities during this time. This includes all recreational sporting events, tournaments, or games that have significant community participation. City staff will also be evaluating the long-term commitments for the summer 2020 season to respond proactively to this ever changing environment. Please keep in

mind that some private sports organizations have already opted to cancel or postpone their games and/or practices due to safety concerns for their participants.

This unprecedented action for city and non-city hosted events is being taken as an extreme precautionary measure to ensure the safety and security of all employees, residents, community organizations, and members who participate in our events and utilize our city facilities. As the situation progresses, we will closely monitor and reassess the long-term impacts on our Summer Event Schedule. Many of our large Special Events will require contractual commitments in the coming weeks.

## Senior Center (and SASSFA Nutritional Program)

Out of an abundance of caution, the Senior Center will be shutdown using a phased approach to protect this vulnerable population. Effective immediately, all classes, workshops, and extracurricular rooms will be closed to the public. The only service available will be the Southeast Area Social Services Funding Authority (SASSFA) Nutritional Lunch Program, <http://www.sassfa.org/> between the hours of 11:45 am – 1:00 pm and caseworker services by phone appointment only. Beginning March 18, 2020 through April 5, 2020, the County's SASSFA Nutritional Program will be modified, and rather than serving hot lunches, frozen food will be available for pick-up at the Senior Center, from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm outside of the facility. We encourage seniors to enlist their family members under the age of 65 to pick-up frozen lunches, in an effort to continue minimizing their exposure. Again, this closure will be reassessed at a later time to determine the need for extending it past April 5<sup>th</sup>. The City Council is working to provide additional services to our seniors

Paramount to these recommendations is the City's ability to maintain an environment in which all staff, residents and visitors feel supported. Los Angeles County's public entities are utilizing their resources to the best of their ability to manage and investigate suspected and confirmed cases of the coronavirus, and we are confident that the situation will deescalate in the coming months.

## IMPORTANT STEPS YOU CAN TAKE TO PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY AGAINST COVID-19

As a reminder, while it is not possible to predict all the risks we may encounter, it is important to continue to take some basic steps to be prepared for potentially changing conditions. Everyone is used to addressing seasonal flu concerns; however, it is important for everyone to follow some basic measures which remain the best defense against the coronavirus.

Current guidance from Public Health officials is that Los Angeles County residents, students, workers, and visitors are encouraged to limit in their regular activities, avoid large gatherings and practice good public health hygiene to avoid contracting COVID-19. Also, public health experts recommend that everyone 65 and older stay home and avoid going out with the exception of seeking emergency services. There are steps that everyone can take daily to reduce the risk of getting sick or infecting others with COVID-19, and other circulating viruses.

- Stay at home when sick.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limit close contact, like kissing and sharing cups or utensils, with people who are sick.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash. If you do not have a tissue, use your sleeve (not your hands).
- Facemasks are most effective when used appropriately by health care workers and people who are sick.
- Get a flu shot to prevent influenza if you have not done so this season.

We always encourage our residents to prepare for any emergency, including the current Coronavirus emergency by ensuring your families have a disaster kit at home with 7 days of household essentials including food, water, sanitation supplies, and basic medications.

It's also important to note that the grocery companies have indicated that there is absolutely no shortage of food and grocery items. They continue to restock their shelves every day. Any shortages or empty shelves that you observe are the direct result of customers purchasing three to five times more than what they really need. I ask that you just purchase the food and grocery items that you and your family need on a regular basis. If we can get everyone to stop panic buying (hoarding) then everyone will have ample food and grocery necessities. Let's all work together by being kind to one another and considering your neighbor's grocery needs. By working together, we can all make life a little easier for our families, our neighbors and our community. In doing so, we'll get through this health crisis and be a better and stronger community for it.

As always, the health, safety and well-being of our residents, employees, stakeholders and our communities is of paramount concern. You can take comfort in the fact that we will continue to monitor this quickly evolving situation and are here to assist you our constituents as needed.

We are looking forward to the time we can bring our community together when the future becomes more certain and we can safely proceed with our normal programs, services and operations.

If you have further questions regarding the Coronavirus (COVID 19), please refer to [L.A. County Department of Public Health](#) or call 2-1-1 for health information.

Gustavo Camacho  
Mayor  
City of Pico Rivera