

City of Ceres

Proclamation of the Existence of a Local Emergency By the Director of Emergency Services

WHEREAS, Section 2.16.130 of the Ceres Municipal Code empowers the Director of Emergency Services to proclaim the existence or threatened existence of a local emergency in the City of Ceres (the "City") if the City Council is not in session, subject to ratification by the City Council within seven (7) days; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (the "CDC") considers the novel coronavirus ("COVID-19") to be a very serious public health threat with outcomes ranging from mild sickness to severe illness and death; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is easily transmissible from person to person and has spread globally to approximately one hundred eighteen (118) countries infected more than one hundred twenty-five thousand (125,000) people, and killed more than four thousand (4,000) people as of March 12, 2020, according to the World Health Organization (the "WHO"); and

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services Secretary declared a public emergency for COVID-19 beginning on January 27, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2020, the Governor of the State of California (the "Governor"), declared a state of emergency in the State of California (the "State") due to the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the State; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the WHO characterized COVID-19 as a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the Governor announced that State public health officials have determined that gatherings of more than two hundred fifty (250) people should be postponed or canceled across the State until at least the end of March; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the Stanislaus County Public Health Officer declared a local health emergency; and

WHEREAS, as of March 12, 2020, there are two (2) cases of COVID-19 in the County of Stanislaus (the "County"), including an assumed case of community transmission; and

WHEREAS, on March 12, 2020, the County Health Officer issued a Countywide moratorium on mass gatherings of one thousand (1,000) or more persons until March 31, 2020 to mitigate the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the County of Stanislaus Director of Emergency Services proclaimed a Local Emergency due to the threat of COVID-19 in the County; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a national emergency due to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the health, safety, and welfare of City residents, businesses, visitors, and staff are of utmost importance to the City, and additional future measures may be needed to protect the community; and

WHEREAS, declaring a local emergency allows additional resources to flow into the City in a timely fashion; and

WHEREAS, existing conditions related to COVID-19 constitute an emergency as defined in the Ceres Municipal Code Section 2.16.130; and

WHEREAS, The Director of Emergency Services of the City of Ceres hereby finds that:

- The efforts required to prepare for, respond to, mitigate, and recover from the increasing spread of COVID-19 have imposed, and will continue to impose, extraordinary requirements and expenses on the City, requiring diversion from day-to-day operations;
- In addition to the above facts, conditions or threatened conditions caused by COVID-19 including, but not limited to, potential isolation and quarantines of residents, employees, businesses, and public safety workers, give rise to conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the City;
- These conditions are, or are likely to be, beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of the City; and
- At the time of this proclamation, the City Council is not in session, and cannot be called into session.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED that a local emergency now exists throughout the City due to COVID-19.

IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that during the existence of the local emergency, the powers functions and duties of the Director of Emergency Services and the emergency organization of the City shall be those prescribed by State law, the ordinances and resolutions of the City, and the City of Ceres Emergency Plan.

IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that the local emergency shall expire unless ratified by the City Council within 7 days of this proclamation.



Dated: March 16, 2020

Toby Wells, P.E.,
Director of Emergency Services
City Manager