



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Tuesday, March 17, 2020
COVID-19 #2020-03

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City Council Takes Action to Ratify Local Emergency Proclamation

Addresses Evictions, Adopts Restrictions and Approves Emergency Response Fund

STOCKTON, Calif. – On March 12, 2020, the City of Stockton proclaimed a local emergency and adopted guidelines issued by the California Department of Public Health to reduce spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19). The proclamation was ratified unanimously by Resolution of the City Council at a Special Emergency Meeting, today, Tuesday, March 17, 2020.

This is consistent with the Stockton Municipal Code which allows the City Manager, in his capacity as Director of Emergency Services, the flexibility to enter into contracts, make purchases, and effectively and efficiently manage and operate the City during the local emergency. In addition, the Resolution allows the City to continue to follow the recommendations from state, federal and local authorities, and national disease and health organizations, including evolving mass gatherings guidelines. Finally, the Resolution supports city and county enforcement of price gouging restrictions.

At the same meeting, the Council adopted an urgency ordinance enacting a temporary moratorium on evictions of certain vulnerable residents, due to nonpayment of rent for residential tenants, where the failure to pay rent results from loss of income from the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). The ordinance is effective immediately for a period of two (2) months.

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To further protect the community, the City Council adopted a Resolution that places temporary restrictions on the operation of movie theaters and entertainment venues, which includes bowling alleys and arcades, gyms and fitness centers, and limits restaurants, delis, and other food venues to delivery, takeout or drive-thru. These restrictions are in place to exercise an abundance of caution and help to prevent the spread of novel coronavirus (COVID-19). Restrictions are through March 24, 2020 and will be reconsidered by the Council during the March 24, 2020, Council Meeting to determine if there is a need to continue restrictions into the future.

The Council recognizes the tremendous financial burden on the entire community and took action to redirect \$1,235,000 to an Emergency Coronavirus Response Fund. Recommendations and criteria for use of these funds will be brought forward to Council at a future meeting.

View the March 17, 2020, City Council Meeting at www.stocktonca.gov/councilmeetings. For updates about the City's response to this local emergency, please visit www.stocktonca.gov/Updates. Subscribe to updates about City of Stockton actions, activities and information through the Ask Stockton [email subscription list](#) [COVID-19 - Coronavirus](#).

The safety of our community is our primary concern, and we appreciate your patience during these extraordinary times.

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