

Dear Richmond Community:

This past week has been an unprecedented one for our city, our nation, and the world as we focus on how to quickly adapt to the changing needs of responding to the novel coronavirus, COVID-19. On Tuesday, health officials from seven Bay Area counties, including Contra Costa, announced a mandatory shelter in place for all residents. Access to food, medical care, gas, public transit, banking, and outdoor activities with social distancing are permitted. Residents who are working to provide essential services such as first responders, food service workers, medical professionals, are exempt. The homeless population is also exempt from this shelter in place. You can read more about that information here [www.coronavirus.cchealth.org](http://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org).

The City of Richmond is committed to preserving essential city functions and complying with the county's shelter in place to keep our community safe. This week the City convened the Emergency Operations Center, or EOC, for the City of Richmond. The EOC consists of staff identified from critical city departments to help respond to emergencies. The EOC is meeting daily to address current and future challenges. We hope to provide the best information possible given the circumstance and support residents in staying informed and engaged with helping to care for one another.

### **What's Changed, and What's the Same?**

The City has examined its operations to identify essential functions, such as public safety, public works, and the housing authority. Some City services, such as libraries and community centers, have been closed to comply with the shelter in place. Other services may be impacted or have modified working schedules to ensure that we follow best practice measures to preserve staffing levels.

There have also been changes to how the City Council meets to minimize exposure to the public. For a complete list of what's open and what's closed, click here. <http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/3917/Impact-to-City-Services-and-Facilities>

### **Stay Informed**

Keep in mind during this time information may change quickly. Please visit our social media and our website posted here to get more information and updates on City Services, the shelter in place, as well as updates on health and community resources: [www.ci.richmond.ca.us/coronavirus](http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/coronavirus).

### **Stay Engaged**

There are many different efforts underway to see how residents can provide volunteer assistance to the elderly and disabled in compliance with the shelter in place guidelines. Stay tuned - information will be shared as these networks develop. There are also resources such as meal services through the school district that are being provided to WCCUSD students. We will link to those resources on our webpage and share them with our community networks in the days to come.

This is an extremely challenging time for us all. More than any other time in our history, this is a time that we must come together as a city to care for one another. I believe given what I have seen of Richmond, we can embody that "can do" spirit, and Richmond will rise to the challenge.

Stay safe, and take care of one another.