Presentations for the
April 6, 2020
City Council Meeting
CITY RESPONSE TO CORONAVIRUS: Keeping Palo Alto Safe and Informed
CORONAVIRUS PUBLIC SAFETY RESPONSE

• Emergency Operations Center is activated

• Redeployed city employees to work remotely, where possible

• Continuing to maintain essential services and ensure the safety of our workforce

• City leadership continues to evolve plans and protocols based on various Coronavirus impact scenarios and County Shelter in Place Order restrictions

• Tracking City’s fiscal situation in light of this extended emergency period
EMERGENCY OPERATIONS

City Manager
Director of Emergency Services
Ed Shikada/Ken Duiker

Legal Advisor
Molly Stump

Assistant City Manager
Monique Ziesenhenne

CSD Branch (DOC)
Kristen O’Kane

Call Center
Gayathri Kanth

Public Safety Advisors
Bob Jonsen PD
Geo Blackshire FD

Public Information Officer (PIO)
Meghan Horrigan-Taylor

PIO Team / JIC

Operations
Kevin McNally

Law Enforcement Branch
Capt. Binder / Capt. Wagner

Animal Services Unit
Cody Macartney

Fire Branch
Brian Baggott

EMS Branch
EMS Chief Roderick

Utilities Branch
Dean Batchelor

PW Branch
Jon Hospitalier

Logistics/Comms
Nathan Rainey

Deputy LSC
Charlie Cullen

IT Branch (DOC)
Darren Numoto

Facilities
Mike Wong

Procurement Unit

ESV (Volunteer) Coordinator
Andrea Edelman

Resource Unit
Mark Chase

Planning/Intel.
Michelle Flaherty/
Rachel Tanner

Legislative Affairs
Heather Dauler

Recovery Branch
Johnathan Lait

Situation Status/GIS Unit
Simon Williams

Scribe
Heather Johnson

Documentation Unit

Finance/Admin.
David Ramberg

Alternate FSC
Steve Guagliardo

Deputy FSC
Kiely Nose

Fin/Cost Unit

Personnel Section
Rumi Portillo

Comp/Claims Unit

Volunteer Intake/Referral Unit
CITY EFFORTS DURING THIS EMERGENCY

• City is fully engaged and partnering across multiple sectors

• Continue to participate in County Public Health briefings and tracking CDC Advisories and Other Guidance

• Activated Citizen Corps Council-Coordinating with Stanford Health Care/hospitals, Palo Alto Unified School District, Palo Alto Chamber of Commerce and other local businesses, and other critical strategic partners

• Activated the Emergency Services Volunteers, actively recruiting more volunteers

• Activated the Community Support Call Center
COMMUNICATIONS DURING THIS EMERGENCY

• Daily e-newsletter and daily social media posts and sharing updates from the County regularly in multiple languages
• Community Support Call Center activation continues
• Printed postcards distributed by our Emergency Services Volunteers
• Advertising campaign to encourage sheltering in place and supporting local restaurants and grocery stores that are open
• Dedicated website, with regular updates at www.cityofpaloalto.org/coronavirus
  • Webpage supporting local restaurants and grocery stores at www.cityofpaloalto.org/supportlocal
  • Webpage offering community support and ways to volunteer at www.cityofpaloalto.org/supportservices
  • Webpage offering business assistance at www.cityofpaloalto.org/businessassistance
WORKFORCE UPDATE

For Shelter in Place Order March 17 to present:

• 600 working on-site (full-time, part-time and rotational)

• 400 assigned telework

• 100 unable to work for some portion of hours

• Paid emergency administrative leave to keep employees whole
  • e.g., exposure, illness, work stoppage
WORKFORCE UPDATE

For Shelter in Place Extension through May 3:

• Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) enacted
  • excludes emergency workers and displaced workers; childcare capped

• Employees with low or no accruals lose pay and health coverage

• Council direction required if short-term relief to be provided

• Certain meet and confer obligations exist even in emergency
Leave Policy Options for Council Discussion for Extended Shelter in Place:

Option A – **Extend paid administrative leave** to cover COVID-related loss of hours.

Option B –
1. **Sick leave** for essential workers physically reporting to work if exposure or illness;
2. **Paid admin leave** for essential workers with work reductions;
3. **Re-assignment** to other emergency work for non-essential employees without work;
4. **Supplement FFCRA childcare leave** with paid admin leave if employee's accrued leaves are exhausted.
PRELIMINARY FINANCIAL IMPACTS

- Bifurcating the financial implications into
  - The emergency response, FY 2020 estimated impacts
  - The return or recovery period, focusing on FY 2021 and beyond

- Preliminary FY 2020 fiscal impacts estimated to range from $15 million to $20 million

- FY 2021 will require re-imagining of “normal” and shared sacrifices
  - Major tax revenue sensitivity estimates General Fund tax revenues to drop $25 million in the first year of a recession.

- General Fund Budget Stabilization Reserve was expected to be at $44.5 million, above target levels
NONPROFIT PARTNERS COORDINATION

• Convening Local Community Based Organizations
• Forum to identify partnership opportunities, needs, and regional resources
• Focused on essential human needs
  • Food
  • Health care
  • Shelter and Housing
    - Palo Alto to receive $294,909 of funding from HUD/CARES Act
    - If needed, staff to develop funding proposal for rental assistance when eviction moratorium expires.
• Needs updated here www.cityofpaloalto.org/supportservices
CITY BUSINESS SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE

• Call center and online business assistance center for information and referral
• City advertising through local newspapers and online to support local businesses
• Increased police presence in commercial districts and at Stanford Mall
• Suspended parking enforcement and business district/registry fees
• Suspended utility shutoffs and extended payment plans
• Easing online application process for building permits
• Examining options for commercial eviction protections
• Rent deferral for Cubberley long term lease tenants
STAY INFORMED

Gain Coronavirus Updates at: CityofPaloAlto.org/Coronavirus

Sign Up for Updates at: CityofPaloAlto.org/newsletterssignup

Call us: (650)272-3181
Community Support Call Center is available Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m.-6p.m.
Slow the spread of this virus
Stay Home: this will save lives.

Stay connected: check on neighbors, volunteer

Be Kind: We are in this together

www.cityofpaloalto.org/coronavirus
Next Steps

• Continue to maintain essential city services and our public safety response
• Continue to convene Local Community Based Organizations
• Continue business support efforts
• Return with budget modifications in May and June

Seeking Council Direction

• Seeking Council Direction on leave policy options
CITY OF
PALO
ALTO
STATE AND LOCAL ACTIONS ON EVICTIONS

• Governor’s March 16th Executive Order
  ✓ Authority given to local government
  ✓ Residential and commercial tenants affected by COVID-19 related income loss

• Palo Alto adopts urgency ordinance on residential evictions on March 23rd

• Santa Clara County adopts urgency ordinance on residential and commercial evictions on March 24th

• Governor’s March 27th Executive Order suspends residential evictions for two months statewide
MINOR REVISIONS TO CITY ORDINANCE

• County applied its ordinance countywide

• City and County ordinances substantially similar

• Modifications proposed for closer alignment with County ordinance
  ✓ Reduce potential confusion
  ✓ Address potential gap in protection for newer tenants
CITY OF PALO ALTO ORDINANCE

• Prohibits residential evictions for:
  ✓ nonpayment of rent (“for cause”) due to substantial income loss related to COVID-19 pandemic
  ✓ no-fault reason where tenant incurred such loss *(amended to add)*

• Tenant must provide notice in writing to landlord of income loss related to COVID-19 and supporting documentation

• Tenant still responsible for unpaid rent
  ✓ 120 days after end of local state of emergency to pay without risk of eviction
CITY OF PALO ALTO ORDINANCE

• Prohibits late fees for nonpayment related to COVID-19
  ✓ Does not amend other provisions of lease

• Requires landlord to provide reason for eviction and notice of tenant’s rights under ordinances (amended to add)
COMMERCIAL TENANT EVICTIONS

• County ordinance applies to small businesses throughout County
  ✔ Using Small Business Administration thresholds

• State bill – SB 939 (Weiner)