



City of Palo Alto

City Council Staff Report

(ID # 11857)

Report Type: Action Items

Meeting Date: 12/7/2020

Summary Title: COVID Enforcement Activities

Title: Discussion and Possible Direction to Staff Regarding City Participation in Enforcement of State and County Health Orders and Seasonal Events

From: City Manager

Lead Department: City Manager

Recommendation

Staff recommends that Council discuss and provide direction if applicable to staff regarding the City's participation in enforcement of State and County Health Orders and seasonal events.

Discussion

On Thursday, December 3, 2020, Governor Newsom announced a Regional Stay At Home Order to respond to the unprecedented spread of COVID-19. On Friday, December 4, the Santa Clara County Health Officer and several other Bay Area Health Officers announced accelerated implementation of the Regional Stay At Home Order. In Santa Clara County, this implementation takes effect on Sunday December 6.

The County of Santa Clara has requested City assistance in implementation of these and related orders. To date, the City of Palo Alto has participated extensively in outreach and education regarding the orders, but not directly enforced health orders other than to refer cases to the District Attorney for enforcement. However, given the seriousness of current community spread of COVID-19, the County is requesting all cities dedicate resources to enforcement as well as education. City of Palo Alto enforcement would likely involve City staff issuing administrative citations for violation of the health orders, potentially ranging from nonpermitted business activities to members of the public failing to wear face coverings.

Staff will provide a verbal report on this issue. Staff will also report on any other pending requests for City participation in seasonal activities such as holiday events. This will provide an opportunity for the City Council and members of the public to provide input regarding our participation.