



## **DECLARATION OF THE DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES OF THE CITY OF PALO ALTO IMPOSING A CURFEW**

Following the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis on May 25, protests began throughout our nation, including in Palo Alto and the Bay Area; the City of Palo Alto respects, honors, and upholds the first amendment and human rights of all Americans to peacefully gather, express their opinions, and petition government for change;

At the same time, in recent days in many Bay Area cities and towns, groups of individuals, not in any way engaged in legitimate first amendment activity, have planned and executed criminal acts, including property damage and theft, focused in central retail areas during nighttime hours;

Local retail businesses have been hard-hit by shelter-in-place orders imposed due to the current public health emergency as a result of COVID-19, and are now additionally burdened by risk of criminal theft and damage; in addition, widespread organized property damage and theft creates a substantial risk to human health and safety, including to law enforcement personnel, emergency responders, and local residents;

Palo Alto law enforcement have observed scouting behavior in Palo Alto, including in and around the Stanford Mall and downtown retail core; local and regional law enforcement intelligence-gathering suggests that planning is underway for additional organized criminal activity that could very quickly threaten harm to persons and property, and that such activity is imminent;

To protect lives and property in the City of Palo Alto, provide for the health and safety of residents and essential workers, and protect and support businesses that are a critical part of our community, it is necessary to immediately restrict the use of public areas of the City, including streets, roads, sidewalks, alleys, parks, plazas, and other rights of way, during nighttime hours;

A Proclamation of Local Emergency due to the community spread of COVID-19 was issued in Palo Alto by the Emergency Services Director on March 12, 2020, was ratified on March 16, 2020 by the City Council and extended on May 11, 2020, and is ongoing;

THEREFORE, under the authority contained in California Government Code section 8634 and Palo Alto Municipal Code 2. 12.060, I, Ed Shikada, as Director of Emergency Services, hereby declare that a curfew be in effect immediately, starting each evening at 8:30pm and ending at 5am, and during which no person shall be upon the public street, road, sidewalk, alley, park, plaza or other right of way, anywhere within the jurisdictional boundaries of the City of Palo Alto.

This curfew shall not apply to any of the following persons:

- (a) police officers, peace officers, firefighters, or other emergency personnel or civilians engaged in police or emergency work;
- (b) utility workers or others engaged in or traveling for the purpose of performing work on essential infrastructure;
- (c) authorized representatives of any news service, newspaper or radio or television station or network;
- (d) persons experiencing homelessness;
- (e) persons travelling to or from essential workplaces; and
- (f) persons travelling to seek or provide medical care.

Law enforcement officers of this City, along with the law enforcement authorities cooperating with the City, are hereby authorized and charged, to the extent provided by law, with the responsibility of enforcing this curfew and are further authorized to arrest persons who do not obey this curfew after due notice, oral or written, has been given. Any violation of this curfew shall be punished as provided in Section 1.08.010 of the Palo Alto Municipal Code.

This curfew shall expire at 5am on June 11, unless terminated earlier or extended.

DATE AND TIME: June 2, 2020 2:00pm

DocuSigned by:

*Ed Shikada*

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Director of Emergency Services