



## **ANNOUNCEMENT BY PALM SPRINGS CITY MANAGER DAVID READY**

Saturday, March 14, 2020

Tonight I am signing a declaration of a local emergency in the City of Palm Springs to address COVID-19 in ways to reduce and the slow the rate of infections and exposure to City residents, workers and visitors, given the City's demographics of 40% aged over 60 and with another 10% or more with compromised immune systems. Pursuant to this emergency declaration, I will be taking actions that exceed state and county recommendations and requirements due to our demographics.

These actions include:

I am strongly advising and asking all businesses and locations open to the public to limit occupancy by 50% of their current legal limit effective immediately.

I am requiring all businesses to post signage at a visible location at every entrance regarding recommended reduction in occupancy, how guests can protect themselves and others, and additional critical information. The City will be providing sign information next week.

I will be restricting public access at City Hall effective Tuesday with continued operations through alternative methods of continuing business through telephone, remote and online methods.

I am restricting public access and closing all other indoor City public facilities effective Monday, as well as the Swim Center and Skate Park; outdoor parks will remain open.

The declaration of local emergency will be scheduled for ratification by the City Council at its meeting on Thursday, March 19, which will be held at the Palm Springs Convention Center. That meeting will also be devoted to addressing issues related to the health emergency.

I will continue to update and announce other measures to address the pandemic in ways to best protect our residents, workers and visitors.

Our website will continue to be updated with information for residents, workers and businesses.



**DECLARATION OF THE EXISTENCE OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY  
CITY OF PALM SPRINGS**

March 14, 2020

**WHEREAS**, Palm Springs Municipal Code section 2.20.050(a)(1) empowers the City Manager, acting as the Director of Emergency Services, to proclaim the existence or threatened existence of a local emergency when the City is exposed to an actual or threatened existence of conditions of disaster or of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the City and the City Council is not in session; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Manager, as Director of Emergency Services of the City of Palm Springs, does hereby find that:

1. Threatened existence of conditions of extreme peril to the health and safety of persons in Palm Springs are present as a result of the increasing spread of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) across the state; and
2. The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has confirmed multiple cases of individuals who have severe respiratory illness caused by a novel coronavirus, called COVID-19, as well as deaths caused by this illness; and
3. The World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a pandemic; and
4. On March 4, 2020 California Governor Newsome declared a State of Emergency to make additional resources available, formalize emergency actions already underway across multiple state agencies and departments, and help the state prepare for broader spread of COVID-19; and
5. The increase of reported cases and deaths associated with COVID-19 has also prompted the County of Riverside on March 10, 2020 to proclaim a local and public health emergency; and
6. A proclamation of a local emergency will assist in a coordinated public health response to reduce transmission and illness severity, provide assistance to health care providers, coordinate and mitigate public services that may be disrupted from this emergency, and mitigate any other effects of this emergency on the citizens of the City; and

7. Under California Government Code section 8630(b) and Palm Springs Municipal Code section 2.20.050(a)(1), a proclamation of local emergency must be ratified by the City Council within seven (7) days to remain in effect.

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY DECLARED**, that a local emergency now exists throughout the City; and

**IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED** that during the existence of said local emergency, the powers, functions, and duties of the emergency organization of this City shall be those prescribed by state law, ordinances, and resolutions of the City of Palm Springs.; and

**IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED** that, without limiting the nature of the foregoing, the City Manager, as Director of Emergency Services, is empowered:

(A) To make and issue rules and regulations on matters reasonably related to the protection of life and property as affected by such emergency;

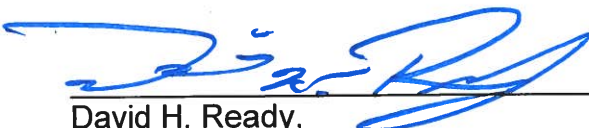
(B) To obtain vital supplies, equipment, and such other properties found lacking and needed for the protection of life and property, and to bind the City for the fair value thereof and, if required immediately, to commandeer the same for public use;

(C) To require emergency services of any City officer or employee and, in the event of the proclamation of a state of emergency in Riverside County, to command the aid of as many citizens of this community as he deems necessary in the execution of his duties; such persons shall be entitled to all privileges, benefits and immunities as are provided by state law for registered disaster service workers;

(D) To requisition necessary personnel or material to any City department or agency; and

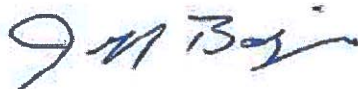
(E) To execute all of his ordinary power as City Manager, all of the special powers conferred upon him by Chapter 2.20 of the Palm Springs Municipal Code or by resolution or emergency plan pursuant thereto adopted by the City Council, all powers conferred upon him by any statute, by any agreement approved by the City Council, and by any other lawful authority.

March 14, 2020



David H. Ready,  
City Manager/Director of Emergency  
Services

**APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM:**



Jeffrey S. Ballinger, City Attorney