



City of Santa Ana
20 Civic Center Plaza, Santa Ana, CA 92701
Staff Report
April 18, 2023

TOPIC: Resolution Declaring the Termination of Local Emergency Regarding the COVID-19 Pandemic

AGENDA TITLE

Resolution Declaring the Termination of Local Emergency Regarding the COVID-19 Pandemic

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Adopt a resolution declaring the termination of the proclamation of local emergency relating to COVID-19.

DISCUSSION

On March 17, 2020, the City Council adopted a resolution proclaiming a local emergency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic pursuant to Santa Ana Municipal Code Section 2-646. The City's proclamation of a local emergency assisted in a cross-jurisdictional response, as well as supported recovery measures, both of which coordinated public services to respond to the emergency and mitigated the adverse effects of the pandemic on residents. In addition to ordering the closure of City facilities, such as City Hall, park amenities, community centers, and more, the City Council authorized the City Manager, as the Director of Emergency Services, to enact orders and regulations necessary to protect the health and welfare of the community. Under the leadership of the City Council and as a response to the pandemic, the Director of Emergency Services issued several executive orders to implement policies, such as an eviction moratorium for residential and commercial tenants, temporarily postponing administrative hearings and deadlines, stopping all water service disconnections, and expanding outdoor dining for businesses.

Twice, the City Council took action to allocate federal funds for COVID-19 response and recovery initiatives. First, on August 4, 2020, the City Council allocated \$28.6 million in federal money for the Santa Ana Cares program, a massive effort to provide financial and health assistance to community members adversely affected by the pandemic. By December 31, 2020, the City had distributed the following:

- \$4,689,415 in business grants to 440 Santa Ana businesses

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- \$2,985,239 in housing assistance grants for landlords and tenants
- \$928,500 in utility assistance grants to 1,857 Santa Ana households
- \$480,000 in artist grants to Santa Ana-based artists and art organizations
- \$220,500 in childcare grants to 221 families
- \$122,580 in isolation assistance for 81 Santa Ana households with a COVID-19 diagnosis
- Over 35,000 COVID-19 tests for at-risk populations
- Over 300,000 face masks and other supplies at 121 Santa Ana neighborhoods and parks

Second, on July 20, 2021, the City Council allocated the first of a total of \$128 million of federal American Rescue Plan Act (“ARPA”) funding to continue to respond to and recover from the pandemic. Referred to as Revive Santa Ana, these funds have supported a series of COVID-19 recovery initiatives, including food distributions, direct financial assistance to residents, improvements to our public infrastructure including new park restrooms, a variety of youth programs, and more. Revive Santa Ana is broken down into five expenditure categories: City Fiscal Health, Public Health and Safety, Critical Infrastructure, Recovery from the Pandemic, and Direct Assistance Programs. Specifically, the following amounts were allocated to each expenditure category:

- City Fiscal Health: \$16,250,000
- Public Health and Safety: \$32,062,600
- Critical Infrastructure: \$53,550,000
- Recovery from the Pandemic: \$8,750,000
- Direct Assistance Programs: \$17,687,400

Revive Santa Ana is on-going; progress updates are available on the City’s website: www.santa-ana.org/departments/revive.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, the City of Santa Ana has experienced 93,307 total cases of COVID-19, with 1,172 deaths attributed by COVID-19.

At the state level, Governor Gavin Newsom ended the State’s COVID-19 State of Emergency on February 28, 2023. At the federal level based on current COVID-19 trends, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is planning for the federal Public Health Emergency for COVID-19, declared under Section 319 of the Public Health Service (PHS) Act, to expire at the end of the day on May 11, 2023.

As the spread of COVID-19 has decreased locally, statewide, and nationwide, and considering that the resources required to successfully respond to pandemic are now readily available, staff has determined that there is no longer a need to continue the declaration of local emergency. Accordingly, staff recommends that the City Council adopt a resolution terminating the local emergency, effective April 18, 2023.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action.

EXHIBIT(S)

1. Resolution

Submitted By: Kristine Ridge, City Manager

Approved By: Kristine Ridge, City Manager