

**PROCLAMATION NO. 20-03-16-01**

**A PROCLAMATION OF THE DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY  
SERVICES OF THE CITY OF RANCHO SANTA  
MARGARITA, CALIFORNIA, DECLARING THE  
EXISTENCE OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY**

WHEREAS, Rancho Santa Margarita Municipal Code Section 6.05.060 empowers the City Council (while in session), or the Director of Emergency Services (if the City Council is not in session), to declare the existence or threatened existence of a local emergency; and

WHEREAS, California Government Code Section 8550 *et seq.*, including Section 8558(c), authorizes the Director of Emergency Services to proclaim a local emergency when the City is threatened by conditions of disaster or extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the City that are likely to be beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of the City; and

WHEREAS, a novel coronavirus, COVID-19, causes infectious disease and was first detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China in December 2019. Symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, cough, and shortness of breath; outcomes have ranged from mild to severe illness, and, in some cases, death. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has indicated the virus is a significant public health threat; and

WHEREAS, Chinese health officials have reported tens of thousands of cases of COVID-19 in China, with the virus reportedly spreading from person-to-person. COVID-19 illnesses, most of them associated with travel from Wuhan, are also being reported in numerous countries, with thousands of cases, including the United States; and

WHEREAS, on January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the outbreak a "public health emergency of international concern" and on March 11, 2020, the WHO elevated the public health emergency to the status of a pandemic. On January 31, 2020, United States Health and Human Services Secretary Alex M. Azar II declared a public health emergency for the United States to aid the nation's healthcare community in responding to COVID-19. On February 26, 2020, the County of Orange declared a local emergency and a local health emergency. On March 4, 2020, California Governor Gavin Newsom declared a State of Emergency in California; and

WHEREAS, on February 2, 2020, the federal government initiated the suspension of entry of foreign nationals who were in China during the 14-day period preceding their entry or attempted entry into the United States; and

WHEREAS, as of March 10, 2020, the WHO reported that, to date, 125,048 confirmed cases of COVID-19, 4,613 of which resulted in death, across 117 countries; and

WHEREAS, the Governor and the California Department of Health on March 11, 2020, issued a statement entitled "California Public Health Experts: Mass Gatherings Should be Postponed or Canceled Statewide to Slow the Spread of COVID-19," determining that gatherings should be postponed or canceled across the state until at least the end of March. Non-essential gatherings must be limited to no more than 250 people, while smaller events can proceed only if the organizers can implement social distancing of 6 feet per person. Gatherings of individuals who are at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19 should be limited to no more than 10 people, while also following social distancing guidelines. Furthermore, essential gatherings should only be conducted if the essential activity could not be postponed or achieved without gathering, meaning that some other means of communication could not be used to conduct the essential function; and

WHEREAS, the Governor on March 12, 2020 issued Executive Order N-25-20, ordering, *inter alia*, that all residents are to heed the orders and guidance of state and local public health officials; and

WHEREAS, President Donald J. Trump on March 13, 2020 declared a national emergency to provide disaster funding, speed up the United States response to the crisis created by COVID-19, and to offer maximum flexibility to attack the problem; and

WHEREAS, on March 15, 2020, Governor Newsom requested bars and nightclubs to close, restaurants to reduce capacity by half, and all Californians aged 65 and older to self-isolate; and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, President Donald J. Trump advised the public to avoid groups of more than 10 people to fight the coronavirus outbreak; and

WHEREAS, the City of Rancho Santa Margarita has the authority to impose measures to promote social distancing including, but not limited to, limitations on public events; and

WHEREAS, the City of Rancho Santa Margarita is a significantly populated city within Orange County, which is the sixth largest county in the United States; and

WHEREAS, conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property have arisen due to the potential introduction of COVID-19 to the City of Rancho Santa Margarita and Orange County; and

WHEREAS, such conditions are beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of the City of Rancho Santa Margarita and require the combined forces of other political subdivisions to combat; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative to prepare for and respond to suspected or confirmed COVID-19 cases, to implement measures to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, and to

prepare to respond to an increasing number of individuals requiring medical care and hospitalization; and

WHEREAS, if COVID-19 spreads in California at a rate comparable to the rate of spread in other countries, the number of persons requiring medical care may exceed locally available resources, and controlling outbreaks minimizes the risk to the public, maintains the health and safety of the community, and limits the spread of infection in the community and within the healthcare delivery system; and

WHEREAS, the mobilization of local resources, ability to coordinate interagency response, accelerate procurement of vital supplies, use mutual aid, and allow for future reimbursement by the state and federal governments will be critical to successfully responding to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Director of Emergency Services has the authority to declare a local emergency as authorized by California Government Code Section 8630 and Rancho Santa Margarita Municipal Code Section 6.05.060.

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED AND ORDERD BY THE DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES OF THE CITY OF RANCHO SANTA MARGARITA AS FOLLOWS:**

Section 1. As contemplated in the Emergency Services Act contained in California Government Code Section 8550 *et seq.*, including Section 8558(c), and Chapter 6.05 of Title 6 of the Rancho Santa Margarita Municipal Code, a local emergency exists based on the existence of conditions of disaster or of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property caused by an epidemic, as detailed in the recitals set forth above.

Section 2. The area of the City of Rancho Santa Margarita which is endangered/imperiled is the entire City.

Section 3. During the existence of this local emergency, the powers, functions, and duties of the emergency organization of this City shall be those prescribed by state law and by ordinances, resolutions, and orders of this City, including but not limited to the City's Emergency Operations Plan.

Section 4. The City Council shall review and ratify this proclamation of the Director of Emergency Services within **seven (7) days** as required by state law, and if ratified, shall continue to exist until the City Council proclaims the termination of this local emergency. The City Council shall review the need for continuing the local emergency as required by state law until it terminates the local emergency, and shall terminate the local emergency at the earliest possible date that conditions warrant.

Section 5. A copy of this proclamation shall be forwarded to the Director of California Governor's Office of Emergency Services requesting that the Director find it

acceptable in accordance with state law; that the Governor of California, pursuant to the Emergency Services Act, issue a proclamation declaring an emergency in the City of Rancho Santa Margarita; that the Governor waive regulations that may hinder response and recovery efforts; that recovery assistance be made available under the California Disaster Assistance Act; and that the State expedite access to State and Federal resources and any other appropriate federal disaster relief programs.

PROCLAIMED this 16<sup>th</sup> day of March 2020.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jennifer M. Cervantez, Director of  
Emergency Services/City Manager

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gregory E. Simonian, City Attorney

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Amy Diaz, City Clerk

STATE OF CALIFORNIA )  
COUNTY OF ORANGE ) ss  
CITY OF RANCHO SANTA MARGARITA )

I, AMY DIAZ, City Clerk of the City of Rancho Santa Margarita, California, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of Proclamation No. 20-03-16-01 adopted by the Director of Emergency Services of the City of Rancho Santa Margarita, California, on this 16<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
AMY DIAZ, CITY CLERK