



Press Release

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COVID-19 UPDATE CITY COUNCIL RATIFIES LOCAL EMERGENCY PROCLAMATION CHINO HILLS CLOSES CITY HALL & CITY YARD TO PUBLIC

Chino Hills, CA – Chino Hills City Manager Benjamin Montgomery, acting as the Director of Emergency Services, signed a formal Proclamation of Local Emergency on Monday, March 16, 2020 as a part of efforts to enhance capabilities to respond to COVID-19 (novel coronavirus) concerns. The City Council ratified the proclamation on Tuesday, March 17 during a Special City Council meeting at 5:00 p.m.

Declaring a Local Emergency allows the City to formalize emergency response, ensure access to necessary resources, and request reimbursement from state and federal governments. It is also a crucial step to mobilize local resources, coordinate interagency response, and accelerate procurement of vital supplies and the use of mutual aid.

Mr. Montgomery also announced that the City of Chino Hills will close all City facilities to public access, including City Hall and the City Yard, starting Wednesday, March 18 at 4:30 p.m., through April 13, as a precaution to reduce community spread of COVID-19. City services will be handled by phone, email, online, and in certain necessary circumstances, in-person by appointment only. City staff will remain onsite to continue to provide City services. A City Services Reference Guide is being developed to provide customers with contact information and email addresses for various City services. For the time being, customers may call the general number (909) 364-2600, or the specific Department for the service they are seeking, during regular business hours.

The City's novel coronavirus website page is www.chinohills.org/coronavirus. It includes alternate ways to conduct business without visiting City Hall including paying the Chino Hills utility bill, requesting service, reporting concerns, renewing a Business License, etc. Residents or businesses with general questions regarding the City's COVID-19 efforts may contact the City via email to ChinoHillsCovid19@chinohills.org, or call (909) 364-2610.

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City Council Meetings

The City Council meets on the second and fourth Tuesday. Agendas are posted online at www.chinohills.org/agendas and in an outdoor display case at City Hall’s entrance. The next regular meeting is on Tuesday, March 24 at 7:00 p.m. The public has the opportunity to provide public comments via email to cityclerk@chinohills.org. Any communication received is provided to City Council Members prior to the meeting.

According to City Attorney, Mark Hensley, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-29-20 on March 17, 2020, which allows Council Members to attend City Council meetings telephonically.

“Transparency and public participation are important parts of our mission,” said Mr. Montgomery. “Discussions are underway to determine how best to ensure that the public can participate in meetings, including commenting on agenda items. Full details on how public meetings will be impacted by COVID-19 transmission precautions and Executive Order N-29-20 will be posted on the City website at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting.”

Local Businesses

According to Denise Cattern, the City of Chino Hills Public Information Officer, the City of is also collecting information from local restaurants, grocery stores, and others that provide essential services and supplies to the community via email to ChinoHillsCOVID19@chinohills.org. Efforts will be made to share business hours, special accommodations for seniors and other members of the vulnerable population, availability of take-out food and delivery, along with a caveat that the situation is very fluid and subject to change.

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