



# ***CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT***

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MEETING DATE: MARCH 13, 2020

ITEM NUMBER: NB-1

**SUBJECT: ADOPT URGENCY ORDINANCE NO. 2020-07 AMENDING CHAPTER I (IN GENERAL) OF TITLE 6 (DISASTER RELIEF AND CIVIL DEFENSE) OF THE COSTA MESA MUNICIPAL CODE RELATING TO EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, ORGANIZATION AND COORDINATION**

**DATE: MARCH 13, 2020**

**FROM: LORI ANN FARRELL HARRISON, CITY MANAGER**

**PRESENTATION BY: JASON DEMPSEY, EMERGENCY SERVICES ADMINISTRATOR**

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: JASON DEMPSEY, (714) 754-5333**

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## **RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends that the City Council:

1. Introduce and adopt Urgency Ordinance No. 2020-07, amending Chapter I (In General) of Title 6 (Disaster Relief and Civil Defense) of the Costa Mesa Municipal Code relating to emergency preparedness, organization and coordination (Attachment 1).

## **BACKGROUND:**

The City Council adopted Ordinance No. 80-20 on November 3, 1980. Ordinance No. 80-20 is codified at Chapter I (In General) of Title 6 (Disaster Relief and Civil Defense) of the Costa Mesa Municipal Code (CMMC). The purpose of Title 6 is to provide for the preparation and carrying out of plans for the protection of persons and property within the City in the event of an emergency, the direction of emergency organization, and the coordination of emergency functions among the City and other entities. Title 6 has not been updated since its adoption.

A novel coronavirus (COVID-19) was first detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province in China in December 2019. Since then, on January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a public health emergency of international concern. On January 31, 2020, Health and Human Services Secretary Alex M. Azar II declared this global outbreak a public health emergency for the United States. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced on February 25, 2020 that community spread of COVID-19 is likely to occur in the United States. The County of Orange declared a local emergency and a local health emergency on February 26, 2020. The State of California proclaimed a State of Emergency on March 4, 2020. The World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a pandemic on March 11, 2020. The Costa Mesa Director of Emergency Services issued a

proclamation declaring a local emergency to protect public health and slow transmission of COVID-19 on March 12, 2020.

In order to ensure the City can respond appropriately and timely to the issues surrounding COVID-19, staff is recommending adoption of the urgency ordinance amending Chapter I of Title 6, as well as introduction and first reading of a regular ordinance.

**ANALYSIS:**

COVID-19 is a serious public health threat as it is highly contagious and may be spread by asymptomatic individuals. Much is unknown about the nature of the virus such as the exact modes of transmission, the factors facilitating human-to-human transmission, the extent of asymptomatic viral shedding, mutations, basic reproduction number, and the case fatality rate. There is currently no vaccine to prevent COVID-19 or specific antiviral treatment.

As of March 13, 2020, the World Health Organization reported that, to date, there were 132,536 confirmed cases of COVID-19, 4,947 of which resulted in death, across 123 countries. On March 13, 2020, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) reported that, to date, California has 198 confirmed cases of COVID-19, four of which have resulted in death. CDPH also reported that approximately 11,100 Californians who returned to the United States after travel are self-monitoring. The CDC anticipates that widespread transmission of COVID-19 in the United States will occur.

It is imperative that the City prepare for and respond to suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19, implement measures to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, and prepare to respond to an increasing number of individuals requiring medical care and hospitalization.

Certain amendments are needed to Chapter I of Title 6 for consistency with state law and to enable the City to appropriately prepare for and respond to emergencies. Due to the immediate concerns associated with COVID-19, staff is recommending City Council adopt the proposed urgency ordinance and introduce a regular ordinance amending Chapter I of Title 6. The urgency ordinance, if adopted, would be effective immediately and enable the City to appropriately and timely respond to issues surrounding COVID-19 prior to the effective date of a regular ordinance.

**ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:**

The City Council may elect to not adopt the urgency ordinance amending Title I of Chapter 6, or give staff alternative direction.

**FISCAL REVIEW:**

There is no impact on the City's General Fund as a result of this action.

**LEGAL REVIEW:**

The City Attorney's Office has prepared the urgency ordinance and this agenda report.

**CITY COUNCIL GOALS & PRIORITIES:**

Goal 1: Keep Our Community Safe.

**CONCLUSION:**

Staff recommends that the City Council adopt Urgency Ordinance No. 20-xx, amending Chapter I (In General) of Title 6 (Disaster Relief and Civil Defense) of the Costa Mesa Municipal Code, relating to emergency preparedness, organization and coordination.

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**LORI ANN FARRELL HARRISON**  
City Manager

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**KIMBERLY HALL BARLOW**  
City Attorney

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**JASON DEMPSEY**  
Emergency Services Administrator

ATTACHMENTS: 1. [Proposed Urgency Ordinance No. 2020-09](#)