



City of Glendora | City Hall

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April 30, 2020

The Honorable Kathryn Barger
Chair
County Board of Supervisors
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Chair Barger:

The City of Glendora acknowledges the leadership and foresight at the state and county levels, issuing the first in the nation Safer-at-Home and social distancing orders. These early mandates eliminated the surge of cases and overwhelming of our medical system that we planned for, but never experienced. We thank you, your colleagues, and dedicated County staff, for saving countless lives through these proactive measures.

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused life for many to come to a complete standstill. With all levels of government issuing declaration of emergencies and numerous executive/health orders, competing news reports on the severity of COVID-19 and scope of the issue, as well as constant politicking through daily press conferences, it's easy to understand the confusion that exists with the COVID-19 health emergency.

Along with the confusion, comes the profound economic impacts that have hit the United States. Everyone understands that the COVID-19 emergency is causing the various levels of government to ask the public to make unimaginable sacrifices. Not even during the Great Depression, has a singular event brought community life to a quasi-standstill. Over the next week unemployment rates could approach 20% and it's universally understood that hundreds of thousands of small business will never reopen. During the age of commercial flying, in no other time since the week after 9/11, have fewer planes flown over the United States. The freeways in Los Angeles are empty, professional sports have stopped and the education system is now completely digital, which eliminates school for large populations that cannot afford access to the requisite technology.

The extraordinary efforts our residents, local hospitals and essential businesses have taken to maintain social distancing to flatten the curve, have allowed us to meet this moment and prepare for a worst-case scenario. We have been successful with in our efforts to manage the virus's spread and made investments to prepare for reoccurrences in the future.

Collectively, the State and County of Los Angeles have asked a great deal of Glendora's residents in the past six weeks and they have risen to every challenge. Small businesses

have been asked to risk permanent closure, layoff beloved employees, and most have not received the financial support promised to them by all levels of government. Residents continue to face significant public health challenges by sheltering in place, which will only be exacerbated with a prolonged recession and high levels of unemployment. Further, despite the heroic efforts of our educators, caretakers, and students, we continue to place unrealistic expectations on education.

We have asked our residents to take these desperate measures because of the unique risks posed to the broader community so we can flatten the curve and allow our healthcare system capacity to not be overwhelmed.

Now is the time to move forward with the economic recovery. We applaud the courageous efforts by the County in the development and achievement of the prerequisites needed to begin opening the County (summarized below):

1. Adequate health care capacity, including staffing, testing and equipment;
2. Protections for high-risk populations;
3. Increased capacity to quickly test, isolate and quarantine; and
4. The ability to maintain physical distancing and control the infection.

Further, we are appreciative of the County's approach to seek invaluable input from cities while developing the recommendations pursuant to the Safely Reopening Los Angeles County initiative, approved by the Board of Supervisors on April 28th (Item #19). These recommendations will be critical to our economic recovery as they dovetail into Governor Newsom's California Resilience Roadmap, Phase 2 – Lower Risk Workplaces and Phase 3 – Higher Risk Workplaces.

When discussing existing requests for local agencies to open the economy on April 20th, Governor Newsom answered with:

Localism. We recognize 48 counties, 480 cities, different parts of the State are impacted differently. But the fact we are one state and the impact we collectively have on one another in neighboring counties, neighboring cities must also be considered.

The City of Glendora agrees with the Governor's assessment that localism is paramount and an accurate, fact-based system, is needed to look at the collective COVID-19 issue moving forward.

As a medium sized city in the Eastern San Gabriel Valley region of Los Angeles County, Glendora's localism efforts will look much different than those of Downtown Los Angeles. Our economy, population density and access to healthcare are drastically different – so too, should be our ability to re-open our economy.

In order to promote localism, the City of Glendora requests the County:

1. Provide a specific date when the Safely Reopening Los Angeles County initiative will begin in conjunction with the Governor's California Resilience Roadmap's Phase 2 (Lower Risk Workplaces) and Phase 3 (Higher Risk Workplaces.)

2. Provide specific allowances (e.g. business types) and criteria (e.g. measurable goals) for cities to move through the Governor's California Resilience Roadmap phases and related protocols implemented through the Safely Reopening Los Angeles County initiative.
3. Continue the push to provide comprehensive, free COVID-19 testing for everyone – the guidance and availability of testing within different jurisdictions in Los Angeles County is confusing.
4. Provide clear and concise information on COVID-19, including geographically accurate counts of current cases (net, not total), current hospitalization rates, and accurate infection and death rates, not just those tested (e.g. USC and County of Los Angeles study.)
5. Advocate for additional funding for cities with a population under 500,000, to address the impacts of COVID-19, including funds received through the CARES Act.

The League of California Cities projects general fund revenue loss associated with the COVID-19 pandemic of approximately \$7 billion over the next two fiscal years for cities in California. It is estimated that 90% of cities will be forced to reduce staff or cut services to the public, further exacerbating our unemployment issues and limiting assistance when our communities need us the most. Moreover, this loss of revenue represents the devastating economic impacts to businesses that generate these dollars. When these issues are compounded by losses in revenue to the counties and State, the economic impacts are catastrophic.

The Glendora community understands the necessity of the sacrifices made to date, and has willingly complied with all executive and health orders to protect the broader community. Further, the City understands and appreciates that "normal" will not happen quickly and that there may be a need for targeted actions based on data driven decisions (e.g. congregate living facilities.) While we have been patient and understanding, the City cannot support additional universal restrictions or an extension of the status quo of the Safer at Home orders past May 15th – we must move forward.

The City of Glendora has enjoyed a great relationship with the County of Los Angeles and are eager to will work with you on localized considerations for the Safely Reopening Los Angeles County initiative. We would appreciate your consideration of our requests to provide specific and granting additional abilities to cities, under a more specific order, that allows for a localized path forward for cities that reside in large and varied counties, such as Los Angeles.

Sincerely,



Michael Allawos
Mayor