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CITY OF TULARE – COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS DISEASE UPDATE

The City of Tulare continues to monitor the effects of COVID-19 (Coronavirus). The safety of our residents, staff and visitors remains our highest priority. “We understand the public’s concern and want our citizens informed of the measures taken by the City in response to the Coronavirus” said Rob Hunt, City Manager. “We appreciate the support received by the County and continue to be in contact for the latest information so we can ensure the safety of our employees and citizens.” The City has formed an internal task force to establish procedures and protocols moving forward in our response to the Coronavirus, focus on the safety of our employees, the continuity of the City’s operations, and the provision of essential services to our residents.

Governor Gavin Newsom and California Department of Public Health officials have issued updated guidance on gatherings to protect public health and slow the spread of COVID-19. As a result, the state’s public health experts have determined that large gatherings of 250 or more should be postponed or cancelled at least until the end of March. To this end, we are heeding the recommendations set by the State and are cancelling the Spring Carnival scheduled for April 9, at Zumwalt Park. The City is also encouraging organizers planning large scale events in the City of Tulare to follow suit. The Choboian-Wong Legacy Race planned for March 22 has been cancelled by event organizers.

“We have City functions and services to perform for the benefit of our community, but we must all work together as a community to take preventive steps identified by the CDC. “ Mayor Jose Sigala said. “While health professionals continue to advise that the risk of contracting COVID-19 remains low in Tulare County, we are taking steps mentioned below in an abundance of caution to protect our employees and community” he added.

- Utility Bills: Those paying utility bills are encouraged to do by any of the following ways, rather than coming to City Hall: Pay by phone by calling (559) 684.4260 select option 1; Pay on line – you can visit <https://onlineservices.tulare.ca.gov> to view, manage and pay utility bills – VISA, MasterCard, Discover and debit cards are accepted; By Mail – payments can be mailed to P. O. Box 7005 San Francisco, CA 94120-7005 or by utilizing the Drop Box behind City Hall, 411 E. Kern Avenue, check or money order only.
- City Sponsored Events: In keeping with the most current recommendation of the Governor’s Office and local public health officials, in addition the events listed above, the City will continue to evaluate City programs and events.

- Senior Center: The City's Senior Center will continue the Senior meals program. Other events have been cancelled such as the Friday night Dances, Bingo and planned trips/excursions. These will be evaluated week by week.
- Police Department and Fire Department: Regular operations continue; non-essential services and events are being modified, postponed or cancelled.
- Public Works: All regular operations (Solid Waste, Water Utility, Street Maintenance, Wastewater Operations) continue as normal.
- Tulare Airport: Regular operations continue.
- Animal Shelter: Facilities are open during regular hours and regular operations continue.

The City understands that our citizens have some level of apprehension, however we are doing our best to keep on top of this matter in order to keep our employees and community safe and secure. As any City service or operations change, event cancellations or general updates occur, this information will be released and posted on the City's website at www.tulare.ca.gov