



CITY OF MENDOTA

“Cantaloupe Center Of The World”

Updated at 12:30 p.m. on April 3, 2020

Information Regarding the City of Mendota’s Response to COVID-19

In order to ensure the health and safety of community members, the City Council of the City of Mendota has adopted policies and legislation in response to COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus). Below is a summary of these policies. This information is not a complete description of the adopted policies and legislation. To view the complete text of these documents, or if you have any questions regarding this information, please contact Mendota City Hall during current business hours (Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.) or via email at ccabrera@cityofmendota.com.

(NEW) Emergency Ordinance No. 20-08: An Emergency Ordinance of the City Council Amending Sections of the Mendota Municipal Code to provide for Administrative Fines on Persons and Non-Essential Businesses Acting in Direct Contravention of the Statewide Shelter in Place Order issued in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic Emergency.

This Emergency Ordinance declares the City’s opinion for its residents and businesses operating within the City’s border to abide by Governor Newsom’s Executive Order No. N-33-20 (Stay at Home Order).

Under this Ordinance, businesses that are ordered to close and remain open in violation of the Stay at Home Order will be subject to an administrative citation. First, the City will provide the business with a written warning, and one day thereafter, noncompliance of the Stay at Home Order will subject the business to an administrative fine of \$1,000 for the first offense, \$5,000 for the second offense, and \$10,000 for the third and any future offenses.

Moreover, this Ordinance states that individuals who are ordered to stop gathering in groups and refuse to do so will also be in violation of the Stay at Home Order and will be subject to an administrative citation. This Ordinance was adopted with the intent of addressing situations where there are social gatherings in groups of more than 10 people. The City will provide a verbal or written warning to the individual(s) ordered to cease congregating, and one hour thereafter, noncompliance will subject the individual(s) to an administrative fine of \$100 for the first offense, \$500 for the second offense, and \$1,000 for the third and any future offenses.

It is important to note that individuals who are traveling to/from places that are essential or to conduct essential activities will **NOT** be cited. However, it is strongly encouraged that all individuals follow the necessary precautionary guidelines to prevent the continuing spread of COVID-19.

If you have any questions regarding this Ordinance, please contact Mendota City Hall at (559) 655-3291 during current business hours or the City Clerk via email at ccabrera@cityofmendota.com. If you would like to report any violations please call (559) 655-4294. You can remain anonymous.

(NEW) Emergency Ordinance No. 20-07: An Emergency Ordinance of the City Council Amending Sections of the Mendota Municipal Code to Provide for Administrative Fines on Persons Using Closed Parks and Facilities during the COVID-19 Pandemic Emergency.

This Emergency Ordinance establishes administrative fines for the use of closed public parks and City facilities.

Under this Ordinance, any person who is using or accessing parks or other City facilities that have been closed to the public during a State or Local Emergency will be subject to an administrative citation. Using or accessing City parks and facilities that have been closed to the public during a State or Local Emergency without permission from the City Manager or his/her delegates will subject the person to an administrative fine of \$100 for the first offense, \$500 for the second offense, and \$1,000 for the third and any future offenses.

(NEW) Resolution No. 20-23: A Resolution of the City Council Closing Public Parks within the City's Limits to the Public in Response to the Continuing COVID-19 Pandemic Emergency.

This Resolution declares that all public parks within the City of Mendota's limits will be closed to the public until the Governor's Executive Order N-33-20 (Stay at Home Order) is withdrawn or rendered ineffective for any reason. The Resolution also directs City staff to carry out and enforce this Resolution's provisions as applicable throughout the City of Mendota.

Emergency Ordinance No. 20-06: An Emergency Ordinance of the City Council Amending Sections of the Mendota Municipal Code to Prohibit Evictions and Foreclosures in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic Emergency.

This Emergency Ordinance states that no residential tenant in the City shall be evicted due to loss of income related to a business closure, loss of hours or wages, layoffs, or out-of-pocket medical costs caused by the COVID-19 outbreak.

Commercial landlords are also prohibited from evicting commercial tenants for nonpayment of rent with response to tenants whose businesses are closed (voluntarily or by mandate) to prevent or reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Under these provisions, tenants must notify their landlords if they cannot pay rent due to a COVID-19 related impact. Within one week of providing this notice to their landlords, tenants must provide documentation or other objective evidence that they cannot pay rent. Tenants will have up to six (6) months after the termination of the City's Local Emergency declaration to repay any back-due rent.

Through this ordinance, the City also declares its opinion that its residents and businesses should not face foreclosure as a result of COVID-19. Lenders are

encouraged to provide a forbearance agreement for up to six (6) months for borrowers impacted by COVID-19, without impacting the borrowers credit.

These provisions are in effect for thirty (30) days following the adoption of the Emergency Ordinance and may extended by the City Council for additional thirty (30) day periods, so long as the City's Local Emergency proclamation remains in effect.

Emergency Ordinance No. 20-05: An Emergency Ordinance of the City Council Amending Sections of the Mendota Municipal Code to Halt the Accrual of Additional Charges on Utility Bills during Emergencies.

This Emergency Ordinance authorizes the City Manager to halt the accrual of additional charges (late fees) on delinquent bills during a State or Local Emergency. Once the City Manager terminates the allowance of these provisions, additional charges (late fees) will begin to accrue on delinquent bills fifteen (15) days after.

Emergency Ordinance No. 20-03: An Emergency Ordinance of the City Council Amending Sections of the Mendota Municipal Code to Prohibit Price Gouging and Taking Unfair Advantage of Customers During Emergencies.

This Emergency Ordinance prohibits the excessive and unjustified increase in the price of essential consumer goods and services during a declared State or Local Emergency. The purpose of this Emergency Ordinance is to protect residents from excessive and unjustified increased in the prices charged for goods and services that are vital and necessary for the health, safety, and welfare of consumers during declared State and Local Emergencies.

As such, this ordinance prohibits businesses from excessively and unjustifiably increasing the price of certain items by more than ten percent (10%) greater than what was charged immediately prior to the declaration of a State or Local Emergency. These items include:

- Any consumer food items or goods
- Goods or services used for emergency cleanup
- Emergency supplies
- Medical supplies
- Building materials

However, it is important to note, that a price increase for the above goods and services that is greater than ten percent (10%) is not unlawful if the business can prove that the price increase was a result of additional costs for the labor or materials used to provide these goods or services during the State or Local Emergency. Business must also demonstrate that the price increase in no more than ten percent (10%) than the total costs of the seller plus the customary markup applied by the business.

The aforementioned regulations are in effect for thirty (30) days following the proclamation of a State or Local Emergency, and it may be extended by the City Council for addition thirty (30) days, as needed.

A violation of this Emergency Ordinance is a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine not to exceed \$1,000, or imprisonment not to exceed one (1) year, or both.

Moreover, this Emergency Ordinance required that all businesses selling goods or services outlined above (and in the complete ordinance) shall post notices provided by the City of Mendota at front entrances informing the public of the provisions of this ordinance. Failure to post such notices shall subject the business to administrative citation.

If you have any questions regarding the provisions listed above and within the Ordinance, please contact Mendota City Hall at (559) 655-3291 or via email at ccabrera@cityofmendota.com . To report business activities that do not comply with these provisions, please contact dispatch at (559) 655-4294.

Resolution No. 20-21: A Resolution of the City Council Proclaiming that Water Services and Garbage Services will not be Shut Off for Thirty Days, and that the City will Accept Delayed Business Tax Payments for Sixty Days.

This Resolution determines that the City shall not shut off water or garbage services for lack of payment for thirty (30) days following the adoption of the resolution. However, residents still have the responsibility of paying their utility bill. Therefore, we recommend that you continue paying as much as possible so that, during this time, your account does not accrue a high balance. This Resolution also permits the City to accept delayed tax payments, including business license fees, for sixty (60) days following the adoption of the resolution. The Resolution also authorizes the City Manager to extend the period time of the above conditions.

Resolution No. 20-20: A Resolution of the City Council Proclaiming a Local Emergency in Response to the Continuing Spread of COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus).

This Resolution determined that the current situation regarding COVID-19 constitutes an emergency condition in accordance with State and Municipal Law. The Resolution also authorizes the City to seek County, State, and Federal assistance to respond to this local emergency. It also authorizes the City Manager to execute certain duties during this time.

The information provided within this notice is not a complete description of the adopted policies and legislation, it is only a summary. To view the complete text of these documents, or if you have any questions regarding this information, please contact Mendota City Hall during current business hours (Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.) at (559) 655-3291 or the City Clerk via email at ccabrera@cityofmendota.com. During this time, the City Council is committed to ensuring the and protecting the lives, property, and welfare of the residents of the City of Mendota.