



CITY OF RANCHO SANTA MARGARITA

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April 28, 2020

The Honorable Michelle Steel, Chairwoman
The Honorable Andrew Do, Vice Chairman
The Honorable Donald P. Wagner, Third District
The Honorable Doug Chaffee, Fourth District
The Honorable Lisa Bartlett, Fifth District
Orange County Board of Supervisors
333 W. Santa Ana Blvd., Santa Ana, CA 92701

Dear Chairwoman and Members of the Board of Supervisors,

On behalf of the nearly 50,000 residents and the nearly 1,000 businesses operating in Rancho Santa Margarita, we implore you to take every feasible and responsible action to re-open Orange County. The health and well-being of our residents and our economy depend on your swift actions and policies.

Since mid-March, we all have been valiantly battling the spread of COVID-19, and we applaud those individuals and organizations that are on the frontlines of this public health emergency – those in the medical field as well as those serving and providing basic necessities to all of us. The impacts of Executive Orders and Public Health Orders requiring individuals to stay at home and limiting all interaction to “essential activities” is extremely stressful for our residents, businesses, our economy. The impacts on individuals’ mental health and our collective community psyche are profound. We are witnessing a total collapse of the economy as businesses are unable to operate, forcing them to lay off employees and suspend lease payments. The unemployment rate in our state is the worst since the Great Depression almost a century ago, and it continues to climb with each passing day.

At the outset, the public was advised that these restrictions would be temporary in order to “flatten the curve” and to ensure that our hospital system could adequately care for those afflicted by COVID-19. Two weeks of sheltering in place has turned into two months, with no real end in sight. Meanwhile, the hospital and medical care system has been able to accommodate the spread of COVID-19 here in Orange County. We recognize that there are new cases reported every day as testing has increased, but hospitalizations and ICU cases remain relatively stable.

Undoubtedly, COVID-19 remains a serious, infectious disease, for which we must all make changes in our daily lives to combat its spread throughout society and to protect those most vulnerable. We can accomplish this at the same time that we re-open our communities and economy in a careful, measured approach. Indeed, this has been proven by the sound, reasonable restrictions currently in place at “essential” businesses such as our grocery stores, pharmacies and banks.

Mayor Bradley J. McGirr	Mayor Pro Tempore L. Anthony Beall	Council Member Anne D. Figueroa	Council Member Carol A. Gamble	Council Member Jerry Holloway	City Manager Jennifer M. Cervantez
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The City of Rancho Santa Margarita is committed to supporting all necessary social distancing precautions applicable to our businesses and all public spaces in order to continue to prevent the spread of COVID-19, but the well-being of our residents and local businesses depend on the responsible re-opening of our business community as soon as feasible. Simply stated, our business community and local economy simply will not survive if actions to re-open are not taken very soon.

Thank you for your exemplary leadership for all of Orange County. We appreciate your consideration of our sincere request, and look forward to supporting your efforts to revive our local economy.



Bradley J. McGirr, Mayor
City of Rancho Santa Margarita

cc:

L. Anthony Beall, Mayor Pro Tempore
City of Rancho Santa Margarita

Anne D. Figueroa, Council Member
City of Rancho Santa Margarita

Carol A. Gamble, Council Member
City of Rancho Santa Margarita

Jerry Holloway, Council Member
City of Rancho Santa Margarita

Jennifer Cervantez, City Manager
City of Rancho Santa Margarita

Frank Kim, County Executive Officer
County of Orange