



March 16, 2020

Dear Carson,

As I'm sure you are all aware by now, we are in the middle of a global health crisis. The President and the Governor have both declared a State of Emergency as a result of the threat of COVID-19 (aka the "Coronavirus"). The Governor also issued Executive Order N-25-20, which directs Californians to follow public health directives, including canceling all large gatherings. The Center for Disease Control advises that all gatherings of 50 or more be canceled, and that the most vulnerable (senior citizens and those with pre-existing medical issues) stay home for at least the next 14-days.

These are unprecedented times and the situation is evolving on a daily basis. The City of Carson is proactively following national and state mandates. Tomorrow night at our regularly scheduled City Council Meeting, we will be considering an item to provide staff with direction to further protect the public health and safety of our residents, employees and community.

Starting Monday, March 16th, many public facilities, including City Hall, parks, libraries, and community centers, will begin closing to the public and we are asking all residents and employees to practice social distancing, i.e., maintain at least six feet distance from one another.

At tomorrow night's Council Meeting, I will ask my colleagues to approve implementation of major operational changes to be effective the next day, Wednesday, March 17th, through at least the City Council Meeting scheduled for April 21st. Non-essential staff will be off and essential staff will work from home when possible. However, I will remain working at City Hall with our City leadership team.

We will provide immediate notice of the Council's actions after the Tuesday, March 16th City Council Meeting. Notices will be posted on the City's website, social media and all places where the City typically posts City Meeting agendas.

To date, no Carson resident or Carson City staff has tested positive for the Coronavirus, but as far as we know, two people who work in the private sector within the City limits has tested positive and these individuals and all of their immediate contacts are now in self-quarantine.

We need to take serious actions now to suppress as much as possible the spread of the Coronavirus, and that is going to include restricting access to City Hall and closing all public facilities throughout Carson. My hope is that beginning Wednesday, March 17th, we will begin transitioning to online and telephone services to ensure the safety of the public and our employees.

In addition, to aid residents and businesses financially during this difficult time, I will also be asking my colleagues to suspend all fines and late payments incurred beginning March 17th and through at least April 21st.

At no time in recent history has our Country, State or City ever been tested like this – but rest assured that we will get through this pandemic. The bigger question is how we look when we come out of this crisis. Our character as a community is being tested, and we need to remember who we are and not let fear and panic control us. There is no food shortage or lack of clean water – just people panicking.

Let's remain calm. Together we will get through this crisis.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Albert Robles', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Albert Robles
Mayor