



# The Week in Review

City Manager Grace K. Leung

June 5, 2020

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## Upcoming Events

### **Tuesday, June 9 City Council Closed Session and Regular Meeting**

City Council Chambers

[\(Instructions for participating remotely\)](#)

5 p.m.

[\(Insider's Guide\)](#)

### **Wednesday, June 10 Harbor Commission Meeting**

City Council Chambers

[\(See agenda for instructions on how to participate\)](#)

5 p.m.

### **Thursday, June 11 Zoning Administrator Meeting**

City Council Chambers

10 a.m.

[\(See agenda for instructions on how to participate\)](#)

## To Our Community:

The protests held in Newport Beach on Wednesday, June 3, were largely peaceful, as participants gathered and marched in five demonstrations throughout the day.

Chief Jon Lewis and the Newport Beach Police Department, as well as our colleagues from other Orange County public safety agencies, did a tremendous job. They maintained order peacefully and protected the First Amendment rights of the participants. The protest organizers and participants deserve credit too for demonstrating peacefully and respectfully.

Unfortunately, there were two separate incidents of concern during the mid-day protests near the Newport Pier area: A man was arrested for driving his car through a crowd of protesters (we are grateful no one was injured) and another man was arrested for brandishing a handgun at one of the demonstrators.

We are monitoring for additional planned protests this weekend and next week. Our Police Department will continue to monitor information and intelligence in collaboration with multiple law enforcement partners and are prepared to respond appropriately.

Meanwhile, we are continuing to support our business community as we begin to recover from the COVID-19 shutdowns. I'm pleased to report that our City Council this week approved a program that will provide \$2.1 million in economic support grants to qualified Newport Beach businesses that have been severely impacted by COVID-19.

The funding is from the federal Coronavirus Relief Fund (under the CARES Act) and was received by the County of Orange. The County allocated the money to provide small business support. Qualified Newport Beach businesses may receive grants of up to \$10,000 each, depending on the number of employees.

Visit the City's website for a complete listing of meetings and events at [newportbeachca.gov/events](https://newportbeachca.gov/events).

The City will be distributing more information next week on the application process, and the types of businesses that may qualify for the grants.

Our Community Development staff is busy issuing permits to restaurants under the “Fast Track Back to Business” program. This allows restaurants and retail outlets to use private property, parking lots, sidewalks and public property for expanded operations. For more information on the program, and applications, visit [www.newportbeachca.gov/backtobusiness](http://www.newportbeachca.gov/backtobusiness).

As a reminder: Street sweeping enforcement will resume June 15. We recognize that parking is a challenge in many neighborhoods. However, after two months, trash and debris has built up on many streets, presenting a potential water quality hazard. Street sweeping removes debris from the streets and keeps pollutants from entering the ocean and waterways.

### **COVID-19 News and Resources**

Please visit [newportbeachca.gov/covid19](http://newportbeachca.gov/covid19) for the latest City news and useful web resources, including information about the federal, state, and county resources available to help [small businesses](#) and [workers](#) that have been financially impacted. We also have a [page of free resources](#) available through the Newport Beach Public Library and local organizations like SCORE, including online learning and business databases. Visit the [Orange County Health Care Agency's COVID-19](#) web page for countywide information, including the number of local cases. You can also follow the City on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#), and look for alerts from our City staff on [Nextdoor](#).

### **COVID-19 Cases in Newport Beach**

The County of Orange posts reported COVID-19 cases by city at: <http://www.ochealthinfo.com/novelcoronavirus>.

The number as of June 4, 2020 is 146 cases in Newport Beach out of 6,783 cases total in Orange County. The County has also begun listing the number of COVID-19 recoveries; the number is 2,890 as of June 4.

Fortunately, Newport Beach cases have flattened, with only slight day-to-day increases, over the past several weeks.

### **OC COVID-19 Screening and Testing Network**

The Orange County Health Care Agency maintains a growing list of FDA-approved testing sites for County residents who are showing symptoms of COVID-19. If you are showing symptoms, please contact your healthcare provider for testing information first. If you do not have a healthcare provider, visit <https://occovid19.ochealthinfo.com/covid-19-testing-and-screening> for testing information. The SOS Health Center in Newport Beach is an approved community testing site. Call (949) 270-2100 for an appointment.

Newport Beach works in partnership with the County of Orange and its testing, tracking and contact tracing program. This coordinated, centralized approach under County oversight is an effective way to monitor and control the spread of the coronavirus in our communities.

### **Homelessness Update**

Addressing homelessness continues to be a priority in the City's ongoing COVID-19 response, and we continue to work closely with our contractor, City Net, and regional partners throughout the county and state. Recently, people in Newport Beach experiencing homelessness have been placed in motels through Project Roomkey, a state initiative to provide shelter during COVID-19.

Newport Beach staff and City Net staff are collaborating with the Illumination Foundation, a local nonprofit agency working with the state to implement Project Roomkey.

Success Stories:

- Sheltered an elderly woman, who had been staying by the Newport Transportation Center, in a long-term motel utilizing County funds and City Net's community collaborations. City Net is in contact with her to provide support and identify more permanent setting for care.
- Enrolled two individuals experiencing homelessness in Newport Beach into Project Roomkey.
- Referred a man at the Newport Transportation Center into a temporary shelter. He now has access to services and resources to obtain permanent housing.
- Encouraged a longtime client in the Newport Pier area to shelter with family in a healthier environment during the COVID-19 pandemic. City Net staff is in contact with the man to provide support and referrals for a more permanent solution.
- Provided hygiene kits, food packs, clothes and supportive services for clients.
- The County, via the Coordinated Entry System, housed four veterans.

The City Net hotline number is (714) 451-6198. Those who call the hotline may leave a detailed voicemail message for themselves or others in need and City Net staff will respond within 48 hours. For immediate assistance call the County's Crisis Prevention Hotline at (877) 7-CRISIS or (877) 727-4747. To enroll in Project Roomkey, call (714) 834-3000.

### **2020 Drinking Water Quality Report**

The Utilities Department has prepared the annual drinking water quality report covering the 2019 calendar year. This annual report has been recently mailed to all Newport Beach water customers and is also found on the City's website.

<https://www.newportbeachca.gov/government/departments/utilities/water-services/water-quality>

The City of Newport Beach Utilities Department staff vigilantly safeguards its water supply and as in years past, the water delivered to your home and business meets the quality standards required by federal and state regulatory agencies. Seventy five percent (75%) of the water comes from groundwater and the remaining 25% comes from the Northern California State Water Project and the Colorado River. For information about the report or water quality information in general, please contact the City Utilities Department at (949) 644-3011.

### **Insider's Guide for the Newport Beach City Council Meeting on June 9, 2020**

During these unprecedented times, public participation is critical for good governance and accountability. To that end, the City has implemented an Information Technology solution to ensure your voice is heard. Using a program called Zoom, the City will livestream the meeting through its website (<http://www.newportbeachca.gov/nbtvlive>) and will broadcast the meeting on its cable television channel NBTv (Spectrum Channel 3 and Cox Channel 852). The Mayor and City Council members will be seen on screen as they participate in the meeting from the City Council Chambers or their homes. Members of the public can provide public comment by calling in to provide their comments for agenda items in real time. The telephone numbers are listed after agenda item titles on the Council agenda and will appear on viewers' screens at the appropriate times. Consistent with in-person Council meetings, callers will have three minutes to provide comments on an agenda item. If you wish to comment, you may also send your comments via email to [cityclerk@newportbeachca.gov](mailto:cityclerk@newportbeachca.gov) by Monday, June 8, at 5 p.m. For those unable to utilize these options, participation is available in-person from the Community Room (across from the City Council Chambers).

Our next City Council meeting is Tuesday, June 9, 2020 with a closed session starting at 5 p.m. The entire agenda, and all reports, can be viewed [here](#).

The Regular Meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. with the following items of note:

- We are recommending an award for phase 2A of the Big Canyon Restoration Project. This phase will restore 11.3 acres of habitat by removing invasion plant species and replacing it with native plants. We have partnered with the Newport Bay Conservancy and together have secured over \$1.68 million in grant funds. The last phase is in the environmental review phase and will be expected to be in construction in the next few years.
- The City Council will consider adoption of the Fiscal Year 2020-21 Budget. This year, the City Council will consider a tiered reduction approach due to the significant shortfalls in our revenue budget, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The budget as presented is balanced and relies on a number of short-term tiered budgetary solutions, maintains service levels, and postpones capital improvement projects to future years. We anticipate that the City Council will be discussing the budget on a quarterly basis as the current situation evolves.
- A long-term project, funded through water rates, is the replacement of all the City's water meters with "smart" meters that will provide more timely water usage data to residents and businesses and reduce the costs of meter reading. The City has been accumulating money in its Water Fund for a number of years in anticipation of this large-scale project. The City also received an almost \$1.5 million grant to ease the burden on our water rate payers.

