The Week in Review

City Manager Grace K. Leung
June 26, 2020

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, June 30
Newport Beach Restaurant Association BID Meeting
(See Agenda for instructions on how to participate)

Wednesday, July 1
Housing Element Update Advisory Committee Meeting
City Hall, City Council Chambers
100 Civic Center Dr.
6 p.m.
(See Agenda for instructions on how to participate)

Friday, July 3
City Hall and most City facilities closed

Friday, July 3
Monthly test of City's outdoor warning notification system

Community members,

The City of Newport Beach is keeping pace and making operational adjustments as the State of California and County of Orange continue to gradually approve the reopening of different business sectors.

We were recently given the greenlight to offer some summer programming. Though limited and with social distancing practices in place, we were more than happy to make the necessary adjustments and open certain summer camps and a modified Junior Lifeguard program. There's been an overwhelmingly positive response to the programs – from the day that registration opened – and it's gratifying for our staff to be able to serve our community in this capacity directly again.

Other statewide limits remain in place, however, and the State of California has not changed the restriction on large gatherings. Therefore, the City is unable to offer our traditional Fourth of July events or to issue special event permits for privately sponsored activities that would draw crowds. Unfortunately, this means that there will not be any professional fireworks displays in Newport Beach this year.

Switching back to more positive news, the City's Small Business Relief Grant program, funded with approximately $2.1 million in CARES Act money provided to Newport Beach by the County of Orange, will provide grants to just over 300 local businesses. The grants are to be used to help small businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic to reopen and recover.

Our Community Development Department is currently developing a similar program and we expect it to be on the City Council's July 14 agenda for review and possible approval. The proposed economic development program would utilize approximately $400,000 in federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to also issue grants to Newport Beach small businesses that have been adversely impacted by COVID-19.

Visit the City's website for a complete listing of meetings and events at **newportbeachca.gov/events**.

COVID-19 Cases in Newport Beach

The number of COVID-19 cases in Newport Beach as of June 25 was 229 and the total cases in Orange County was 11,551. Countywide, there were 506 new cases of coronavirus reported Thursday, but officials note that number reflects some catch up due to reporting delays from 28 different testing dates. The number of recovered COVID-19 patients countywide as of June 25 was 5,326.

The number of tests administered per day and the periodic reporting challenges do create fluctuations and periodic spikes in the daily case counts, but the virus is continuing to spread now that aspects of the Stay at Home order are easing. Statewide, there's been a steady increase in the number of new cases, hospitalizations and ICU hospitalizations over the past two weeks. While the State and County are now better prepared to handle the increase – and currently have adequate hospital capacity, ventilators and PPE available – the upward trend is concerning. The Governor and health officials continue to strongly emphasize the necessity of proper social distancing, the wearing of masks when in public and the importance of regular handwashing.

COVID-19 News and Resources

Yesterday, the State of California released the California COVID Assessment Tool (CalCAT), a model that enables the public and researchers to access current COVID-19 data, view assessments of the spread of the virus, provides short-term forecasts of disease trends and more. You can access CalCAT at calcat.covid19.ca.gov.

The County of Orange also continues to add new COVID-19 data and information to its website at https://occovid19.ochealthinfo.com/coronavirus-in-oc.

The County of Orange Healthcare Agency has a new COVID-19 Hotline, (714) 834-2000, and email address, ETeam@ochca.com. County staff will monitor the hotline and email box and answer questions about industry reopening and activity resumption, current guidance and more.

The County also 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.

Last week, the California Department of Public Health released updated guidance that requires Californians to wear a face covering in high-risk settings. The County of Orange Health Officer amended the local orders accordingly.

Please visit 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. You can also follow the City on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, and look for alerts from our City staff on Nextdoor.

First Housing Element Update Advisory Committee (HEUAC) Meeting on July 1

On Wednesday, July 1, 2020, at 6 p.m., the City's Housing Element Update Advisory Committee (HEAUC) will meet for the very first time. The HEAUC was formed earlier this year with the following primary objectives:

- Ensuring public outreach and stakeholder input regarding updating the General Plan Housing, Land Use, and Circulation Elements;

- Providing guidance to City staff throughout the outreach process;
- Providing guidance to City staff and its consultants on goals and policies related to the update; and
- Making other recommendations to the City Council regarding the update, as necessary.

The HEUAC is comprised of nine voting members, who have been appointed by the City Council, and Mayor O'Neill as a non-voting ex officio member.

The agenda for the first meeting has been posted online here. The meeting will serve as a welcome and introduction to the HEAUC and its focus moving forward while discussing topics, such as housing opportunity sites and affordable housing.

The HEUAC is scheduled to meet the first and third Wednesdays of each month on an as-needed basis. For more information on the HEUAC, please check out its webpage here.

Treasury Report Update

The May 2020 Treasury Report is available on the City's website at: www.newportbeachca.gov/treasury.

As of May, the City's portfolio totaled just over $323 million. Approximately $90 million of the portfolio was invested in very liquid investments available for day-to-day operations and cash funding for major construction expenditures.

The short-term portfolio ($214 million) had a weighted average effective maturity of 1.93 years. The trailing twelve months' total return was 4.77%. Our benchmark for the same period, the BAML 1-3 Year Treasury index, returned 4.58%. The income yield on the portfolio, a better measure of income derived from the portfolio, was 2.21%.

Homelessness Update

Addressing homelessness continues to be a priority in the City's ongoing COVID-19 response, working closely with 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 non-profit agency working with the state to implement Project Roomkey.

Success Stories:

Three people staying by the Newport Transportation Center were placed in motels last week with Project Roomkey. One of the three people was an elderly woman recently evicted and City Net's staff quickly placed her in shelter.

Staff completed five Vulnerability Index Intake Assessments with people staying in Newport Beach. The assessment is used to screen clients to determine proper placement in the County's Continuum of Care system. Some assessment factors include age, health issues, and length of time being unsheltered. Case managers will follow up with the clients to provide housing assessments and prepare documentation for housing.

Two people completed the housing assessment and are obtaining identification and birth certificates for the housing application. The City Net staff assisted them with transportation to appointments and completing the necessary forms.

Last week, seven veterans and their families were housed in Orange County, thanks to new supportive housing locations for veterans and a collaborative placement effort involving several

agencies. The Santa Ana Veteran's Village supportive housing now provides 75 units with on-site resident services. The Placentia Veterans Village, scheduled to open next month, is now accepting applications and referrals. The County's Coordinated Entry System coordinator manages a roster of eligible veterans and confers with service providers, such as City Net, to match veterans with housing opportunities.

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.

NMUSD Project at Ensign Intermediate School

The City Council held a Special Meeting on Thursday, June 26, to review the June 16 decision by City staff to issue an encroachment permit for improvements to Cliff Drive, adjacent to Ensign Intermediate School. After hearing a presentation from Newport Mesa Unified School District (NMUSD) officials and public testimony from residents on Thursday afternoon, the City Council reluctantly upheld the decision to issue the permit, as NMUSD's application for the encroachment permit technically met each of the requirements for its issuance.

The permit pertains to an NMUSD project that involves ingress and egress access to Ensign via an on-site drop-off and parking lot. Residents have expressed concerns about the project including what they believe was a lack of communication from the school district and the District's plans to remove mature street trees. NMUSD began removing the trees on June 22.

At Thursday's meeting, City Council members also shared their concerns about the manner in which the NMUSD project has been communicated as it has progressed, particularly the tree removal process on Monday. City and NMUSD officials committed to improving communication between the two agencies.