

EMERGENCY PROCLAMATION CITY OF WEST RICHLAND

WHEREAS, the world is currently experiencing a novel coronavirus (“COVID-19”) outbreak;

WHEREAS, COVID-19, a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death is caused by a virus easily spread from person to person; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Department of Health has confirmed the localized person-to-person spread of COVID-19 in Washington State, significantly increasing the risk of exposure and infection to Washington State residents and creating an extreme public health risk; and

WHEREAS, on February 29, 2020, Governor Jay Inslee proclaimed that a State of Emergency exists in all counties in Washington State, and directed state agencies and departments to use resources and to do everything reasonably possible to assist affected political subdivisions in an effort to respond to and recover from the outbreak; and

WHEREAS, the situation worldwide and locally is sufficiently serious that it is necessary that I declare a civil emergency within the City of West Richland and exercise the Mayor’s civil emergency powers; The emergency event requires the use of the statutory emergency powers granted pursuant to 38.52.070;

NOW THEREFORE, It is hereby proclaimed:

Section 1. I declare there is an emergency caused by COVID-19 in the City of West Richland which requires and authorizes me to exercise emergency powers vested in me as Mayor by RCW 38.52 which authorizes me to enter into contracts and incur obligations, and to take any other appropriate action necessary to address and respond to the emergency to protect the health and safety of persons, properties, and to provide emergency assistance to persons affected by this emergency.

Section 2. These powers will be exercised in light of the exigencies of the situation without regard to time-consuming procedures and formalities prescribed by the State statutes and rules, or by City ordinance (except for mandatory constitutional requirements). These include but are not limited to budget law limitations, requirements for competitive bidding, publication of notices related to the performance of public works, entering into contracts, incurring of obligations, employment of temporary workers, rental of equipment, levying of taxes, City-performed or directed work in areas of the City that are subject to moratoria, and the appropriation and expenditure of funds.

Section 3. Department Heads are authorized to enter into contracts and obligations necessary to respond to the declared emergency to protect the health, welfare and property of the citizens of the City of West Richland and to provide the citizens with emergency assistance.

Section 4. City staff will take whatever action is determined to be appropriate to respond to the emergency conditions.

DATED THIS 17th DAY OF March, 2020 at 6:00 a.m./p.m.

FOR CITY OF WEST RICHLAND, BENTON COUNTY, STATE OF WASHINGTON



Brent Gerry, Mayor

Attest:



Julie Richardson, City Clerk