



MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

March 13, 2020

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To the Citizens and Businesses of Solvang:

On behalf of the City of Solvang, I would like to be the first to make a more personal statement about the events of this past week, as pertain to COVID-19 ("Coronavirus") and the City's, and County's, efforts to help the public during this difficult and uncertain time.

Please know, that the City is continually working on ways to move Solvang forward, in light of the mandates and health emergencies which are in place at the Federal, State and County levels. We, as a City, issued a news alert about our actions in response to Santa Barbara County's March 12, 2020 declaration of a "Public Health Emergency", within an hour or so of the County press conference on the subject.

We are not behind in this matter, and we are diligently and closely working with other government staff at all levels to ensure that we are kept as up to date as possible, on new developments related to COVID-19. While we are consumed by these emergency tasks, we do ask that the public please understand the matter at hand is not an easy subject, and also ask that as a community, we all remain centered and work as a team to get through these current events. One spark can ignite a fire, and that fire can be extremely destructive to the City's efforts toward public safety. Now is not the time to turn on one another.

With this rapidly-shifting situation, information can quickly become outdated or even incorrect. We support public discourse but implore our residents to visit the following links for updated information about COVID-19, as pertains to our State and our region:

Santa Barbara County Public Health Department COVID-19 Public Information Portal – publichealthsb.org

California Department of Public Health COVID-19 Updates – www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/ncov2019.aspx

While the safety and wellbeing of our community is our first concern, the economic state of our area and its businesses is obviously of equal importance. As a community, those of us who are healthy enough to go about our daily lives with minor interruptions, should make an extra effort to support local businesses at this juncture. Many of our restaurants are offering take-out / to-go or delivery options, in lieu of hosting guests in their dining rooms. Some of our grocery stores are also offering delivery services, for those who prefer not to shop in-store. Please research the options with local businesses. Your patronage will make all the difference as we weather this storm, in an attempt to incur the least amount of economic impact as possible.

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We recommend that business owners, employers and employees request a copy of the Economic Development Collaborative's ("EDC") COVID-19 Business Resource Guide, which may be obtained by contacting the Solvang Chamber of Commerce, or via email to the City of Solvang at media@cityofsolvang.com. As per the Guide, no-cost business consulting is available for businesses which have experienced certain concerns or disruptions (*please review the Guide for parameters*). EDC / Small Business Development Center Advisors can assist in providing guidance during this time. Appointments at the EDC office can be made by calling 805-409-9159.

In the next week, we will be issuing correspondence related to the tourism impacts and efforts which the City is undertaking. I will attend the next Santa Barbara County Association of Governments ("SBCAG") meeting, scheduled for March 19, 2020, the topic of which is how to sustain the County's tourism economy during this time. Please be patient as we coordinate with our fellow State and County agencies on the best path(s) to take in that realm.

In the interim, we are still seeing visitation to this region. We ask that businesses recognize that fact and accommodate guests, wherever the opportunity presents itself.

Please be safe, healthy and informed. Thank you for your continued support of this great community!

Solvang Mayor Ryan Toussaint