



HILLSBOROUGH
California

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MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

To my fellow Hillsborough residents:

We write with what we hope will be useful information, as we find our community and nation in the midst of an unprecedented public health emergency, which changes from day to day, and sometimes from hour to hour.



Most locally, we wanted our residents to know that at a Special City Council Meeting yesterday, the Hillsborough Town Council proclaimed the existence of a local emergency. I signed the resolution adopting that proclamation in the afternoon. We write this morning to provide some background on why such a proclamation is in the Town's best interest, and why the proclamation should not be a cause for alarm.

Broadly, the resolution declaring a local emergency is done to protect and preserve public health and the safety of Town residents and property. Importantly, it may assist our Fire Department, Central County Fire (CCFD), to obtain critical mutual aid and other state and federal resources as they become needed and available. The adoption of the resolution may have a net positive financial impact on the Town, for it allows the State to provide mutual aid to the Town and CCFD, including personnel, equipment and other available resources, to assist during the time of emergency. It may also allow the Town access to federal financial assistance.

Our Burlingame neighbors, with whom we share CCFD under a joint powers authority, this week proclaimed the existence of a local emergency as well, further paving the way for CCFD to apply for federal financial assistance as it becomes available.

In more regional news, as most of us know, on Monday the Public Health Officers of six Bay Area counties, including San Mateo County, issued a joint legal order directing these counties' residents to shelter at home and further mandating that non-essential business and government operations cease for three weeks, from March 17-April 7, 2020. The order limits activity, travel and business functions to only essential needs.

To comply with this order, the Town of Hillsborough has closed Town Hall to walk-in customers and will limit Town services to phone and email for the duration of the order. The Police Department and CCFD, as well as Public Works and Finance, will continue to provide essential services to the Town. Should you have needs, the Town has created a webpage summarizing available [Town services as of March 17, 2020](#).

There are many questions about what constitutes essential service. To attempt to answer at least some of them, the County has created both a guide which is available on the [San Mateo County shelter in place FAQ page](#), and a call in line for non-emergency assistance, which can be reached by calling 2-1-1 and is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. If you are a business owner with questions, please visit the [San Mateo County Economic Development Association \(SAMCEDA\) COVID-19 website](#).

The novel coronavirus, COVID-19, is testing all of us-locally, nationally and globally. Our patience also will be tested. In such times, I am grateful that we have a strong and resilient

community, which has shown kindness, compassion and grace towards each other as we meet these challenges head-on. Protect yourselves and your families, protect your neighbors, and know that our community can and will weather this storm, as long as we work at doing so together.

Warmly,

Mayor Shawn Christianson
Town of Hillsborough

