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For Immediate Release

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Mayor Salvador Melendez and Members of the City Council, today directed City personnel, and Department Heads to take additional steps that can help slow the spread of the novel coronavirus, commonly referred to as COVID-19, strengthening the local response to the outbreak with measures that include new limits on public gatherings in City facilities.

Mayor Melendez and City Council Members signed a local emergency declaration as a precautionary measure to formalize coordination with public health agencies, smooth the way for quicker acquisition of supplies, and ease access to State and Federal funds should the need arise in response to COVID-19.

As part of this declaration, the Mayor and Members of the City Council issued the following directives to City personnel and Department Heads:

- Temporary closure of the Montebello City Hall complex to members of the public, except for public City Council meetings.
- Transitioning board and commission meetings to accessible phone or video conferencing sessions that allow constituents to make comments, ask questions, and engage with local leaders.
- Postponement or cancellation of all non-essential public community events or group activities with 50 or more participants or events that require close contact between vulnerable individuals.
- Stoppage of all events or conferences on City-owned properties anticipated to attract more than 50 people. The Quiet Cannon will continue normal operations as City leaders continue to monitor their activities for potential concerns related to COVID-19.
- Plan development for staggered entry of visitors into public buildings, not to exceed more than 50 at a time. Transit locations and similar facilities are exempt at this time.
- Ensuring that hand-washing and sanitizing stations are available in City-owned public buildings, and taking extra steps to clean facilities thoroughly and regularly.
- Stoppage of all non-essential travel by City employees to all destinations, domestic or foreign.
- The direction towards all Department heads to develop an Emergency COVID-19 Telecommuting Plan for implementation should it become unsafe for staff to travel to or work from their regular work location.

The Mayor's and City Council Members order follows new statewide guidelines issued by Governor Gavin Newsom on Wednesday night, which details new California Department of Public Health policy that includes guidance to cancel or postpone all gatherings of 250 people or more, along with additional direction on protecting public health and slowing the spread of COVID-19

The City of Montebello continues to follow the guidance and direction of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Los Angeles Department of Health Services (DHS), and the Public Health Officer.