



## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

*City of Foster City*

March 31, 2020

Dear Foster City Community:

I wanted to update you on the COVID-19 situation and provide you with information regarding the County's and City's responses to this ongoing and everchanging issue. I continue to participate in calls with the County three times a week. In our update yesterday, the County reported 309 confirmed cases in San Mateo County, with 70 people under surveillance. There have been inquiries and requests for the number of confirmed cases within Foster City, but due to patient privacy and confidentiality laws, the City does not have access to that information. The San Mateo County Health Department is not confirming identities or locations of places where a potentially infected person is or may have been. The City, in line with the County of San Mateo, is working under the assumption that COVID-19 is widespread throughout the entire County, so please take the necessary precautions to reduce the risk of transmission whenever possible. We now have 1,444 volunteers who signed up through the County's website at [smcgov.org](http://smcgov.org), who are being matched and deployed to areas where help is needed. Mobile hospital trailers have been delivered to the San Mateo Event Center and will be staffed and deployed as necessary.

It was also announced that the Public Health Order for people to shelter-in-place will soon be extended until at least May 3. Last week, the County closed all of its County Parks due to the crowds that had been gathering in those parks in the past couple of weeks, even though we have a shelter-in-place order. Social distancing had not been observed in the parks, and the enforcement of the order placed Park Rangers and staff in danger of exposure to COVID-19. These precautions and the extension of the shelter in place order are necessary to slow the spread of COVID-19. I want to thank those that are diligently sheltering at home and leaving only for essential needs. I want to urge others to do the same. Do not congregate at parks, meet with friends, or play contact sports. We need everyone to do their part in stopping COVID-19 and that means staying at home and practicing social distancing.

The County has started an initiative called SMC Strong, to assist County residents, small businesses, and non-profit organizations. This fund was started with \$3,000,000 from the County and an additional \$54,542 have been raised from donors to-date. Check out the [smcstrong.org](http://smcstrong.org) website for more information and how to donate or apply for funding. The County has imposed a temporary moratorium on residential evictions if you cannot pay your rent during this emergency as a result of COVID-19 expenses or illness. The County's residential eviction moratorium is stricter than the State's and pre-empts the State's order. The County is still considering whether to adopt similar measures for commercial tenants.

If you are a small business and have been affected financially due to the COVID-19 outbreak, you can also apply for loans and/or grants through the Small Business Association. Several programs are available. Check out the Small Business Administration website at: [www.sba.gov/coronavirus](http://www.sba.gov/coronavirus).

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The City continues to provide the essential services that you expect and to continue the infrastructure projects that are necessary for providing those services. At our next City Council meeting, we will be discussing the Levee Project and the effect of COVID-19 on the bond market and our upcoming bond issuance for the project. We will also be discussing the Parks and Recreation Department audit and consideration of a City Council Subcommittee to address the affordable housing expiring covenants for 74 units at Foster's Landing. I have also requested that an agenda item labeled "COVID-19 Update" be included on each agenda going forward so we can discuss the actions the City has been taking related to the outbreak and also so the City Council may discuss ideas and projects we might want to tackle to help you and our small businesses get through this difficult time. Our City Council meetings are being held through Zoom. You can watch them online at [fostercity.org/fctv](https://fostercity.org/fctv) and may submit comments on any Agenda item via email prior to or during the meeting by sending those comments to [publiccomment@fostercity.org](mailto:publiccomment@fostercity.org). To stay updated on the City's response to COVID-19, visit [fostercity.org/covid19](https://fostercity.org/covid19).

I hope this update finds you social distancing, washing your hands, and staying at home as much as possible. Stay safe and healthy!

Sincerely,



Catherine Mahanpour  
Mayor, City of Foster City

