MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: Karen Pinkos, City Manager
DATE: June 4, 2020
SUBJECT: City Manager’s Update

On Friday Contra Costa County released another revision to their health order, allowing such things as outdoor dining, dog parks, picnics and camping, and religious services, all under certain conditions. One big part of this announcement is that public swimming pools will be allowed to reopen, though in a modified manner. While this is great news, I do ask everyone’s patience as we work to open the Swim Center in a way that complies with the Order. Now that we know we have the green light, we must recall staff from furlough and ensure that everything is in place before we open to the public. More details are in the Recreation section of this update, and please watch our website at el-cerrito.org/covid19 and el-cerrito.org/swimcenter as well as our social media accounts. In the meantime, we appreciate your patience while we work to reopen all our public facilities in a way that protects the health and safety of our patrons and our employees.

On June 9, the City Council will hold a study session to continue its focus on the City budget and financial position in a rare 1:00 p.m. weekday special meeting. This meeting was designated as a separate workshop to make sure the session was entirely dedicated to the budget, and the time was chosen to accommodate the Councilmembers’ schedules to allow for the discussion. The meeting will be livestreamed and recorded, so that community members can watch later if they cannot view the meeting live. At the study session, the City Council will discuss a Fiscal Response Plan for the next budget year and beyond, including options for reducing programs and services. More details on the meeting are in the City Management section.

At the June 2 City Council meeting, the City Council took time to recognize the pain caused by the murder of George Floyd. In this update, I have included the remarks that I made at the meeting along with the remarks made by Police Chief Paul Keith and Mayor Greg Lyman. This week has seen an outpouring of pain, frustration, and anger…but also, hope. We have hope that because we cannot ignore what we have seen, true change can follow. I want to thank everyone who participated in the demonstration on San Pablo Avenue on Thursday for showing the Bay Area a peaceful and powerful example of who we are and what we stand for. I am so proud of the El Cerrito community and of the El Cerrito Police Department for their efforts and commitment.

We all have a lot of work to do. I am confident that the resilience and compassion of this community will see us through.

Please stay safe and healthy.

Karen Pinkos
City Manager
City of El Cerrito
CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) UPDATES

el-cerrito.org/COVID19 - Please see website for citywide updates.

County Issues New Shelter in Place Order, Easing Some Restrictions
The Contra Costa County Health Department issued a new shelter-in-place Order on June 2. This Order continues to restrict most activity, travel, and governmental and business functions to essential needs and to the outdoor activities and businesses that the prior Order allowed to resume. But in light of progress achieved in slowing the spread of COVID-19 in Contra Costa County, the Order allows a limited number of additional businesses and additional activities to resume operating as of June 3, subject to specified conditions and safety precautions to reduce associated risk of COVID-19 transmission.

Information and details can be found in the County Health Department Press Release and the new County Health Order.

CITY MANAGEMENT

★ Special City Council Budget Meeting on Tuesday June 9, 2020 at 1:00 p.m.
On June 9, 2020 at 1 p.m., the City Council will hold a special meeting to discuss a Fiscal Response Plan for the next budget year and beyond. This workshop is a continuation of the discussions the Council has been having over the past several months. Materials can be found here: Council Meeting Videos & Materials.

The City is facing budget challenges that have been made worse by the current public health crisis and lockdown. Staff has already identified about $4 million in reductions, including cuts in expenses, a freeze on hiring, all employees deferring cost-of-living increases, implementing furloughs, and other actions to decrease costs. However, because our budget issues have been structural in nature, this means that the proposed reductions will not be enough to build back the City’s General Fund Reserves, especially if there is a recession due to the COVID-19 crisis.
To that end, the City Council and the Department Directors have been working with Management Partners, our Strategic Plan consultants, to develop additional actions for the Council to consider to further reduce expenses. At the City Council meeting of May 19, the Council discussed a framework and criteria for various services that the City provides, to implement a priority-based budgeting model. The Council will discuss various programs and listen to Management Partners’ recommendations for how and what programs could be reduced based on strategic priorities.

At the June 9 meeting, Management Partners will provide an array of options for reducing programs and services, both short-term and long-term. Because this is a study session, no decisions will be made, but it promises to be a difficult discussion because of the potential impact to programs, services, and the City staff team. The City Council has stated that they wanted “everything to be on the table”, and so this discussion will be a result of that direction. The City Council will review this information so that they have a complete understanding of the City’s financial position and the options for making sure that the City remains financially solvent going forward.

Once the City Council has this initial discussion, Management Partners will take their feedback and refine their recommendations, which will be discussed again at an upcoming meeting (The exact date and time will be determined). The budget process will continue over the next few months with the City Council, with the hope that the economy will begin to bounce back and we have a better picture of what our finances will be as a result of the COVID-19 crisis. City staff is working on various options for holding budget hearings in the upcoming weeks, which depending on the County health order will likely be a virtual platform or a modified version of an in-person meeting, or a hybrid of both. We will be sure to update the public when we have this plan in place.

In the meantime, all City Council meetings will continue to be livestreamed on our website and public comments are welcome in writing or by voice message. Instructions for submitting public comments.

City Advisory Body Meetings
During the COVID-19 State of Emergency, the City has suspended all non-essential meetings which has included Board, Commission and Committee meetings. City Staff is hard at work thoughtfully planning on how to resume various aspects of governance that have been suspended, including meetings of advisory bodies. Staff liaisons, the City Clerk’s Office, and Information Technology are in communication and in the planning stages for resume advisory body meetings remotely in July. For more information, please contact the City Clerk at cityclerk@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us or visit www.el-cerrito.org/commissions.

Census 2020 – There is Still Time to Respond
Almost 25% of El Cerrito still needs to be counted in the Census 2020. REMEMBER: each person not counted is a loss of $2,000 each year for the next 10 years.
If you need language support to complete the 2020 Census or if you know someone who could use language support, you can find video guides for 59 different languages here: http://buff.ly/2RC9Mdh. Print guides in many languages are found here: https://tinyurl.com/y2h8sbns. Respond to the census at http://my2020census.gov.
FIRE

Mutual Aid Fire in Solano County
One Wednesday, June 3, Engine 171 was dispatched as part of a Contra Costa County mutual aid strike team to respond to Suisun City in Solano County. A vegetation fire that started around 3:30 pm quickly spread to a 4-alarm fire. This fire burned over 3300 acres, destroyed at least 4 homes and numerous outbuildings. The rate of spread of this fire was rapid, considering the location right along the slough and that there was measurable precipitation a little over a week ago. This is an important indicator of what we will be facing as we get further into summer and fall.

PUBLIC WORKS

PG&E - Community Wildfire Safety Webinars
PG&E is hosting a series of online webinars for anyone interested in learning more about the Community Wildfire Safety Program, including how you could be affected by a Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS).

Contra Costa County Customer Focused Session
June 10, 2020, 5:30 p.m.

These virtual gatherings will allow community members to learn more about wildfire safety and emergency preparedness, meet with PG&E representatives, ask questions, and share feedback. Visit PG&E's website for the full webinar schedule and to register.

KIDS for the BAY
Each year, KIDS for the BAY develops workshops, activities, and field trips to teach students about stormwater and how to protect our local watersheds. This typically includes work at 1-2 elementary schools in El Cerrito. In response to the pandemic, and school district closures, KIDS for the BAY has developed distance learning programs for those classes, but also "At Home Activities" for students and parents in the broader community. Visit their webpage for a list of At Home Activities that you can do with your family as the shelter in place continues. These include instructions on how to build a compost bin, how to create a water conservation log, and a variety of other indoor and outdoor activities to learn about and engage with the environment.

RECREATION

Summer Camp Begins Monday
The Recreation Department’s first special summer camp session is beginning on Monday. They will be taking place at the Community Center and Castro, Cerrito Vista, Fairmont and Harding Parks. For the safety of campers and staff we request that the public stays physically distant from the camps.

Information about upcoming summer camp sessions will be out soon with registration slated for June 17, 2020.

Swim Center
The new County Health Order, released on June 5, allows for outdoor swimming pools to reopen with restrictions. At the El Cerrito Swim Center, it will take some time to recall staff, ensure their safety training is current and implement a new reservation system to ensure physical distancing (see below). A survey of options will be released next week to see if there is a demand for different programs incorporating the necessary restrictions. As soon as we are ready to open, we will post it on our website el-cerrito.org/swimcenter.

The new Health Order states (Appendix C-1, Item 10):

(10) Outdoor Swimming Pools

  a. Basis for Addition: Outdoor swimming pools have few high-touch surfaces and do not require shared equipment. Risks associated with outdoor swimming pools can be substantially mitigated through measures that provide for adequate social distancing.

  b. Description and Conditions to Operate: Outdoor swimming pools may operate subject to the following limitations in addition to those required elsewhere in the Order:

    1. Lap swimming must be limited to one swimmer per lane, except that members of the same household or living unit may occupy a single lane.

    2. Use of shared swimming areas must be limited to no more than one swimmer per 300 square feet of shared pool space.

    3. Except for members of the same household, swimmers shall remain at least six feet apart.
CITY MANAGER’S UPDATE (CONT’D)

at all times.

4. At least one person, separate from a lifeguard, shall be on duty at all times to ensure that the social distancing protocol applicable to the facility and all limitations herein are followed.

5. Locker rooms shall be closed to the public, except for use as a restroom.

6. All gatherings shall be prohibited outside the pool, such as on pool decks, except that members of a household may observe a child or other person swimming to ensure safety and supervision.

Subscribe & Follow
It is important to stay connected during this difficult time. For up-to-date information in the El Cerrito Recreation Department, please subscribe to our email newsletter rECnews at elcerrito.org/recreation
Follow us: Instagram - @ecrecreation | Facebook - @ecrecreation | Twitter - @ElCerritoREC

ATTACHMENTS/FLYERS

- El Cerrito Open Restaurant List
- 60+ Newsletter
- Comments from City Manager Karen Pinkos at June 2, 2020 City Council Meeting
- Comments from Mayor Greg Lyman at June 2, 2020 City Council Meeting
- Comments from Police Chief Paul Keith at June 2, 2020 City Council Meeting
These restaurants offer take out food during the COVID-19 lockdown. List subject to change. El Cerrito Chamber of Commerce members shown in red. Check restaurant websites (if available) as many provide online ordering and delivery to maintain social distancing. Hours may vary.

**Dine Out El Cerrito**

- **All Star Donuts**  
  3070 El Cerrito Plaza
- **Bánh Mì Sandwich Deli**  
  10174 San Pablo Ave.
- **Banana Leaf Thai**  
  11880 San Pablo Ave.  
  bananaleafelcerrito.com
- **Baskin Robbins**  
  10598 San Pablo Ave.  
  baskinrobbins.com
- **Best Burrito**  
  10390 San Pablo Ave.
- **Brasil Bistro**  
  11866 San Pablo Ave.
- **Burger IM**  
  El Cerrito Plaza  
  burgerim.com
- **Burger King**  
  6021 Central Ave.  
  bk.com
- **Chef’s Chinese**  
  El Cerrito Plaza
- **Chipotle**  
  Carlson & San Pablo  
  chipotle.com
- **Church’s Chicken**  
  11575 San Pablo Ave.  
  churches.com
- **Denny’s**  
  11344 San Pablo at Potrero  
  dennys.com
- **Donut Time**  
  10740 San Pablo Ave.
- **El Cerrito Natural Grocery Annex**  
  wine & beer only  
  Stockton & San Pablo  
  naturalgrocery.com
- **Elevation 66 Brewing Co.**  
  10082 San Pablo Ave.  
  elevation66.com
- **El Mono Fresh Flavors of Peru**  
  11720 San Pablo Ave.  
  elmonofresh.com
- **Frannie Express**  
  Hawaiian Barbecue  
  11775 San Pablo Ave.  
  frannieexpresshawaiian.com
- **Gangam Tofu Korean Cuisine**  
  11740 San Pablo Ave.
- **Himalayan Grocery**  
  10340 San Pablo Ave.
- **HK Home Kitchen**  
  10140 San Pablo Ave.
- **Jack in the Box**  
  5920 Cutting Blvd.  
  jackinthebox.com
- **Jamba Juice**  
  El Cerrito Plaza  
  jamba.com
- **Larb Thai & Tapas**  
  10166 San Pablo Ave.  
  larbthaitapas.com
- **Little Caesar’s Pizza**  
  11299 San Pablo Ave.  
  littlecaesars.com
- **Little Hong Kong**  
  10443 San Pablo Ave.
- **Los Moles Beer Garden**  
  6120 Potrero Ave.  
  losmoles.com
- **Lucky Store**  
  El Cerrito Plaza  
  luckysupermarkets.com
- **McBears Social Club taco truck**  
  10458 San Pablo Ave.
- **McDonalds**  
  11821 San Pablo Ave.  
  mcdonalds.com
- **Mountain Mike’s Pizza**  
  10750 San Pablo Ave.  
  mountainmikespizza.com
- **Mr. Pickle’s Sandwich Shop**  
  10810 San Pablo Ave.  
  mrpickles.com
- **New India Supermarket**  
  10289 San Pablo Ave.
- **Nation’s Giant Hamburgers**  
  Central & San Pablo  
  nationsrestaurants.com
- **New Dumpling**  
  10064 San Pablo Ave.
- **Noodles Fresh**  
  10042 San Pablo Ave.  
  noodlesfresh.com
- **Nori Roll**  
  10178 San Pablo Ave.  
  noriroll.com
- **Papi’s Pizza Roma**  
  10616 San Pablo Ave.  
  papispizzaroma.com
- **Panda Express**  
  El Cerrito Plaza  
  pandexpress.com
- **Peet’s Coffee**  
  Carlson & San Pablo  
  peets.com
- **Popeye’s Louisiana Kitchen**  
  10125 San Pablo Ave.  
  popeyes.com
- **Quickly**  
  El Cerrito Plaza
- **Red Onion**  
  11900 San Pablo Ave.
- **Romano’s Macaroni Grill**  
  El Cerrito Plaza  
  macaronigrill.com
- **Safeway**  
  11450 San Pablo Ave.  
  local.safeway.com
- **Sasa Kitchen**  
  10350 San Pablo Ave.  
  sasakitchenca.com
- **Starbucks Coffee**  
  3000 El Cerrito Plaza  
  11861 San Pablo Ave.  
  starbucks.com
- **Subway**  
  10398 San Pablo Ave.  
  11430 San Pablo Ave.  
  subway.com
- **Taqueria El Salva**  
  11252 San Pablo Ave.
- **Tashi Delek Cuisine**  
  11224 San Pablo Ave.  
  tashidelekcuise.com
- **The Junket**  
  El Cerrito Plaza  
  thejunket.com
- **Uncle Wong’s**  
  11760 San Pablo Ave.  
  unclewongselcerrito.com
- **Vietnam Grille**  
  10386 San Pablo Ave.
- **Well Grounded Tea & Coffee Bar**  
  6925 Stockton Ave.  
  well-grounded.com
- **Wienschnitzel**  
  11101 San Pablo Ave.  
  wienschnitzel.com
- **Wingstop**  
  El Cerrito Plaza  
  wingstop.com
- **Yammi Sushi**  
  El Cerrito Plaza
- **Yoshio Sushi**  
  10889 San Pablo Ave.  
  yoshiosushielcerrito.com
Available Services

ATTENTION C.C. CAFE
UPDATES EFFECTIVE JUNE 1st

C.C. Cafe participants will receive (5) frozen meals each week (previously 7 frozen meals)

Calcium offerings will alternate between flavored calcium-fortified beverage powders and a 1/2 gallon of milk.

Grains offerings will alternate between wheat bread, oatmeal packets and assorted crackers.

C.C. Cafe is dependent upon donations. Any contributions you can make to the program are appreciated. Donations can be made by check made out to "City of El Cerrito" and left in an envelope on your porch at 11am on Wednesdays for pick up when we deliver your meals (El Cerrito residents) or can be mailed to:
Midtown Activity Center, 10940 San Pablo Ave, El Cerrito, CA 94530

Questions?
Email: midtown@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us or call: (510) 559-7677

C. C. Cafe
Annual Registration Forms Due 6/17/20

Dear C.C. Cafe Participant,

We hope all is well and you that are enjoying the C. C. Cafe To-Go Meal program. As you may know, C.C. Cafe is a county-run meal program that is dependent upon donations as well as outside funding. Each fiscal year C.C. Cafe participants are required to complete a new NAPIS form and emergency card in order for the program to receive funding.

Included with your June 3rd meal delivery are the enrollment forms for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. Please complete and return forms by placing the completed forms in an envelope on your porch on meal delivery day (if you live in El Cerrito) or by turning forms in when you pick up your meals (non-residents). Completed forms must be returned no later than Wednesday June 17th.

If you have questions email midtown@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us or call (510) 559-7677.
Thank you,
Midtown Activity Center Staff

For more information about these programs
call (510)559-7677 or visit www.el-cerrito.org/1490/50-Seniors
Looking for Senior Resources?
Dial 211 or visit www.211.org
Resources are constantly being updated with new information.

Cooling Tips to Survive Summer Heat

Don’t wait to call your doctor or 9-1-1 if you experience any of these WARNING SIGNS of heat related conditions, such as heat exhaustion or a heat stroke:

- Headache
- Nausea/Vomiting
- Hot Dry Skin
- Dim/Blurred Vision
- Profuse Sweating
- Exhaustion
- Dizziness
- Hot Dry Skin
- Cold Damp Skin
- Muscle Cramps
- Fainting

*Heat strokes can be life-threatening and can come on quickly*

Tips to beat the heat!

- Drink water: Sip all day; don’t wait until you are thirsty. Avoid alcohol, caffeinated beverages, sugary soft drinks and full-strength fruit juices.
- Eat light foods high in water content: fruits, salads, and soups
- Limit physical activity and wear a hat outside, preferably with a wide brim
- Use a sunscreen of SPF 30 or higher when outside
- Keep shades drawn and blinds closed, but windows should be slightly open.
- Develop a “buddy” system; keep in contact with your family & friends at least twice a day
- Talk to your doctor about medications; you may need to alter medications or dosages, but under no circumstances should you change your medication on your own.
- Be prepared for power outages

For more information about these activities call (510)559-7677 or visit www.el-cerrito.org/50-Seniors
Comments from City Manager Karen Pinkos on Racism: June 2, 2020 City Council Meeting

In the middle of our worry about the health pandemic, making sure that we continue to deliver services, and facing our economic challenges, we are now faced with our biggest challenge. The video showing the final moments of George Floyd’s life caused deep pain and sadness. The protests happening in communities across the nation are a reckoning.

It makes clear all of the work we still have to do to address racial, ethnic, and gender bias in our society. My job must focus on building trust and creating an environment where all our residents feel safe. I am responsible for establishing standards and selecting professionals to lead our departments and provide our services, and so I have both the opportunity and responsibility to advance equity and inclusion.

We all have a responsibility to dismantle systemic racism and proclaim that Black Lives Matter.

Because racism is learned and built, it can be unlearned and torn down. It won’t be easy, and it requires white people acknowledging our privilege and doing the work to challenge racism whenever we see it, and to always seek racial justice. We must become comfortable being uncomfortable.

Our City organization isn’t perfect, of course. But we do have a lot to be proud of and to build on. I don’t have all the answers, but I am willing to make sure I am asking the right questions. I am committed to continuous improvement in all areas of my life, and here in El Cerrito I commit to improving how I work and how I learn to ensure that we dismantle racism, do the work, and be intentional in our actions.

As a resident, I am proud to be a part of the El Cerrito community. We come together in bad times, like we did in 2016 when a hate crime happened and we responded with a campaign to stop hate. We come together in good times, like now as we celebrate Pride (which started as a riot) and Loving Day (which started as a crime) and we have turned those into a month where we celebrate marriage equality, racial equality, and human equality, recognizing love is love and that we are all welcome here. Once again: let us all come together as neighbors to take care of one another and stand united against hate.

I want to express that I am proud of the men and women of the El Cerrito Police Department. I believe we are a good example of how policing can be done well. We work to protect and serve with the values of dignity and respect. Again, no organization is perfect, but I have seen the work our team does, and continues to do, and I hope that other police departments look to us as a model and that our residents are as proud of them as I am.
Remarks from Mayor Greg Lyman at June 2, 2020 City Council Meeting

The events over the last 10 days requires remarks. I am especially disgusted by the senseless and horrifying death of George Floyd. Racism is fear and hatred. We have no room for racism in El Cerrito. My thanks and appreciation go out to our Police Chief and officers who share this reaction to the unjust death and who are actively planning ways to prevent this in El Cerrito. We all, regardless of our race or ethnicity, have a responsibility to actively fight racism. We need to consciously work to eradicate our bias and fear and move towards love, peace and active inclusive behavior.
Comments to Council from the Chief of Police, June 2, 2020.

Good Evening Mayor and Council.

I am Paul Keith, your Chief of Police. Thank you for the opportunity to make some comments about state of the City of El Cerrito and the El Cerrito Police Department.

To start with, I am asking all community members to abide by the curfew set in place by the Supervisors of Contra Costa County. In El Cerrito and in our neighboring communities, we have seen instances of targeted looting and vandalism. For the last two nights I have deployed a substantial number of uniformed officers, including all department administrators, to deter theft and vandalism. We are working hard to make certain that the jobs and businesses that our community depends on will remain open. Tonight, the curfew begins at 8:00 pm and ends at 5:00 am.

I authored a letter last week expressing my outrage at the shameful and criminal behavior displayed by officers in Minneapolis. I have received messages asking that I speak directly on the topic of systemic racism.

As a Law Enforcement Officer, I swear to uphold the constitution and dedicate my life to living by the law enforcement code of ethics. I swear to protect and preserve the constitutional rights of all to liberty, equality, and justice. It is clear that Black Americans suffer disparate outcomes compared to other racial groups. That is unacceptable to me and it should be unacceptable to all.

The ECPD frequently reviews our policing practices on the lookout for disparate outcomes and we make changes when we find problems. This may mean, as examples, changing how and why we stop vehicles, modifying how we respond to calls for service, or investigating and disciplining officers in the event of race-based misconduct. I do not tolerate racist behavior in the police department, and I do not tolerate it when I come across it in my personal life.

The lives of black people matter and I see it as my responsibility to continue to cultivate a policing culture in El Cerrito that encourages officers to question their biases and assumptions and take a hard look at how our policing practices impact our communities of color.
Our officers are socially conscious men and women, who are hired from our local communities. They are people of high character who have likewise dedicated themselves to a career of service to the constitution and to our community. They are an impressive and courageous group of people.

To my fellow El Cerritans and my West County neighbors, please stay safe tonight and take care of one another. Thank you.