

## REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

**DATE:** AUGUST 26, 2020  
**TO:** HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
**FROM:** NATHAN HAMBURGER, CITY MANAGER  
**BY:** LOUIS CELAYA, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER  
**SUBJECT:** COVID-19 COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES UPDATE

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At the July 22, 2020, City Council meeting, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 20-1954 extending the City's moratorium to September 30, 2020. At that meeting, the City Council received information on future consideration being reviewed by the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors as they monitor the pandemic impact on the County of Los Angeles and address the eviction moratorium issue.

At the July 22 meeting, the Council also directed staff to return in August to provide an update on the landscape, as it relates to the County's future actions, and to provide information on possible programs that could be available to tenants, landlords, and businesses in Agoura Hills.

Discussions with County supervisory staff identified the County recently launched the following assistance programs:

### LA County COVID-19 Rent Relief – 8/17/20 -8/31/20

- Program is open to renters in Los Angeles County, with the exception of residents living in the City of Los Angeles
- Eligible renters must qualify based on income; struggled to pay rent due to the COVID-19 pandemic
- Landlord must provide a W-9 and sign a participation agreement in order to have the rent paid on behalf of the tenant
- Tenant applications only
- Landlord may not apply; only encourage tenant to apply
- Payments made directly to landlord/property owner
- Commercial properties are not eligible for this assistance

### Rent Relief Programs – Supervisorial Districts

- The program provides rent payments to property owners on behalf of an Income-eligible household
- Up to \$1000 towards monthly rent for up to three (3) months

- Currently open to property owners with rental units located within the unincorporated areas of the First Supervisorial District
- First round of funding expected through 8/31/2020

Discussions at the County level are currently underway to see if other Supervisorial Districts will have similar rent relief programs, and the possibility of make funding available beyond the unincorporated county eligible areas.

LA Regional COVID Fund – 8/17/20

- Recovery Fund will deploy \$3 million in grants available at \$5,000 or \$15,000 to micro-entrepreneurs, small businesses, and 501(c)(3) non-profits
- Micro-Entrepreneurs - workers participating in the gig economy, street vendors, sole proprietors, independent contractors, 1099 workers, and/or LLCs with **revenues of \$100,000 or less**
- Small Businesses - registered for-profit business entities that have a yearly gross revenue of more than \$100,000, but less than \$1 million based on most recent available tax return
- Non-Profits - registered 501(C)(3) or 501(C)(6) organizations that have annually **a total revenue of more than \$50,000 but less than \$1 million** based on most recent available 990 Form
- All entities must have been created as of September 2019

Additionally the following programs are also available to assist our business and residents:

Great Conejo Valley Chamber of Commerce Small Business Relief Fund

Small grant assistance available for local small businesses to assist with financial impacts from COVID-19. Maximum grant \$2500.

To be eligible for funding, applicant organizations must:

- Be a small business with under 25 employees in the Conejo Valley.
- Company has been substantially impacted by COVID-19
- Company has been in operation for over 1 year.

City of Agoura Hills Business Grant Program

Small grant assistance available through the City via Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding for businesses

Due to current CDGB guidelines, the grant is not available for commercial property owners

Los Angeles County Consumer and Business Affairs - Mediation Program

- Available to all LA County Residents
- Tool to assist with Landlord & Tenants with communication

- Tool to assist with working out rent repayment arrangement
- No cost to either party

Los Angeles County Disaster Help Center Website – lacountyhelpcenter.org

- County website dedicated to assisting Businesses, Workers, Non-Profits, Tenant/Landlords with various services, program, and other information available to our county residents and businesses

Finally, Supervisorial staff have advised that the County Board of Supervisors are still in discussions about whether the future County eviction moratorium will be prepared to be binding to all municipal agencies as a base standard. At the time of the preparation of this report, no additional information was currently available. Staff can provide any additional updates at a future City Council meeting. Information on the County rental relief programs have been placed on the City's website and disseminated via the City's social media outlets.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

City staff respectfully recommends the City Council receive and file this report.