



## WILMINGTON NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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Valerie Contreras, Chair  
Carlos Sanchez, Co-Chair  
Santiago Sedillo, Secretary  
Gina Martinez, Treasurer  
Barbara Zepeda, Parliamentarian

March 19, 2020

Dear Wilmington,

I hope you and your family are safe and well.

You already know that we are currently in a state of National Emergency with the Corona virus pandemic. As your leaders, we want to update you on the role of the Neighborhood Council and how we are responding to this emergency. Our Council is in a “suspended” state of emergency. Mayor Garcetti’s directive given on March 12, 2020 ordered this. The Mayor under the guidance of the Local Health Department & the Centers for Disease Control, has suspended us for the health and safety of all. <https://www.lamayor.org/mayor-garcetti-issues-new-orders-help-protect-public-slow-spread-novel-coronavirus>

Under our current “suspended” mode we cannot hold meetings of any kind including virtual meetings due to the Brown Act guidelines and other governing rules for all Neighborhood Council. Once the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment releases us from our emergency mode, our meetings will resume.

While we are limited from conducting our normal business via full Board & Stakeholder meetings, committee meetings, events and community engagement, we are still working hard for our community needs. We are in daily communication with the Mayor’s office to convey the needs of Wilmington during this crisis and to receive important updates.

**It is critical that we practice SOCIAL DISTANCING and follow all guidelines set forth by the Centers for Disease Control and all LA County health officials via the Mayor’s directives. <https://corona-virus.la/>.**

In our limited emergency capacity, we are able to gather information on community needs, report them, request supplies, and join efforts with local partners. It is extremely important that you follow the guidelines set for us by the Federal, State, and local health officials. We are posting them on our WNC website and social media pages. [www.Wilmingtonneighborhoodcouncil.com](http://www.Wilmingtonneighborhoodcouncil.com). Wilmington Neighborhood Council Facebook. These steps are informed by the guidance of experts at the Centers for Disease Control and taken in coordination with our partners at every level of government. They will slow the spread of COVID-19 and help to prevent a dangerous strain on our hospitals and healthcare workers.

Our priority is to give you information from official, reliable, sources. Please be careful what you read online and social media if is not official. We have provided updates and links from official sites and sources. You may reach us at anytime via our email [WilmingtonNC@empowerLA.org](mailto:WilmingtonNC@empowerLA.org)

We are all in uncharted waters when it comes to this health crisis. We don’t have a hospital in Wilmington, so our council is working with local health clinics and Medical facilities to supplement their supplies with the approved personal protective gear for the COVID-19. Additionally, we are reaching out to local hospitals like Kaiser and Providence to come up with a strategic plan to be ready for the next steps. We are in contact with the first responders and emergency agencies like the red cross. Our board safety and emergency committee chair and I are working to better serve our community during this uncertain time.

Wilmington, we have survived fires, earthquakes and refinery explosions and we have always made it through.

This is a moment for preparation, not panic. A moment to come together and pitch in, be kind and to show the very best of the Wilmington spirit. I know that each of us will do our part to stay vigilant, stay informed, and help limit the spread of this virus. Stay encouraged because this too shall pass!

Sincerely,

*Valerie Contreras*

Valerie Contreras, Chair

On behalf of the Wilmington Neighborhood Council