



Proclamation

WHEREAS, the City of Richland is a first class charter city organized under Article XI, Section 10 of the Washington State Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) Section 38.52.070 authorizes all political subdivisions of this State to exercise emergency powers within their own jurisdictions under defined circumstances; and

WHEREAS, the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) is a respiratory disease that may result in serious illness or death for certain vulnerable members of Richland's population, and is transmissible from person-to-person; and

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Public Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar declared a public emergency for the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) beginning on January 27, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on February 29, 2020, Governor Jay Inslee declared that a state of emergency exists in all counties in the State of Washington due to the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the State; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, Governor Jay Inslee directed closure of all Washington K-12 public schools beginning March 17, 2020 to and through April 24, 2020 in an effort to limit the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the health, safety and welfare of Richland residents, businesses, visitors and staff is of utmost importance to the City, and additional future measures may be needed to protect the community; and

WHEREAS, to ensure flexibility in the event the City requires additional assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic, a formal declaration of emergency allows additional resources to flow to the City in a timely fashion; and

WHEREAS, existing conditions related to the COVID-19 pandemic warrant a proclamation of emergency as defined by RCW 38.52.010(9)(a).

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED AS FOLLOWS:

1. A state of emergency, specifically covered by Chapter 38.52 RCW, exists within the City of Richland as a result of the spread of COVID-19 within the State of Washington.

2. All emergency powers and authority set forth in RCW 38.52.070 are hereby invoked, including but not limited to the right to enter into contract, employ temporary workers, and incur obligations without regard to time-consuming procedures and formalities prescribed by law (except mandatory constitutional requirements).
3. The City Manager is authorized to request all available state and federal assistance necessary to respond to this emergency.
4. This declared state of emergency shall remain in effect until further notice.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed hereto the official seal of the City of Richland, Washington, this 17th day of March, 2020.


Ryan Lukson, Mayor

