



CITY OF NEWARK

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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Preparing to Reopen Newark Businesses Impacted by COVID-19

NEWARK, CA – At a Special City Council meeting on Tuesday, June 16, 2020, the Newark City Council approved an urgency ordinance authorizing the Community Development Director to issue COVID-19 Minor Use Permits and Waive Requirements of the Zoning Code to facilitate business operations impacted by COVID-19. This move comes after the Alameda County Health Officer announced plans to allow more activities under its Health Officer Orders. The latest Health Officer Orders will relax restrictions effective June 19, 2020 by allowing the reopening of outdoor museums, outdoor restaurant dining, religious services, indoor/outdoor retail, and outdoor fitness classes.

As businesses begin to reopen, they will be required to comply with specific restrictions and guidelines that will impact their ability to operate in the same manner as they did prior to the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. Complying with the procedures could create a significant burden on businesses that are already struggling.

Local businesses are a critical part of Newark's economy and community and are a significant source of jobs, tax revenue and essential services for the community. Business closures will negatively impact the local economy.

In an effort to support the business community and assist businesses in reopening, the Newark City Council approved an urgency ordinance that broadly authorizes the Community Development Director to issue COVID-19 Minor Use Permits and temporarily waive any requirement of the Zoning Code in order to facilitate business operations impacted by COVID-19 and applicable health orders. Under the ordinance, the Community Development Director can evaluate all requests on a case-by-case basis. This will allow local businesses to function and open to the public while still operating in a manner that complies with best practices recommended by health officials to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

Under the urgency ordinance, a COVID-19 Minor Use Permit will be valid for the duration of the urgency ordinance unless otherwise specified by the Community Development Director.

Additionally, the urgency ordinance, in an effort to support economic activity in the City during this critical time, provides that there will be no application fees required for COVID-19 Minor Use Permits and Encroachment Permits issued pursuant to the urgency ordinance.

The County is still finalizing their guidelines to reopening. Until then, should you have any questions, please feel free to email the City of Newark's Planning Department at planning@newark.org or call them at (510) 578-4330.

[**Urgency Ordinance - Minor Use Permit / Waive Requirements**](#)
[**Alameda County COVID-19 Health Emergency Press Release**](#)

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