



MERCED

THE CI

To: The Honorable Mayor and City Council
From: Stephanie R. Dietz, Interim City Manager
Date: August 28, 2020
Re: City Council Information Report

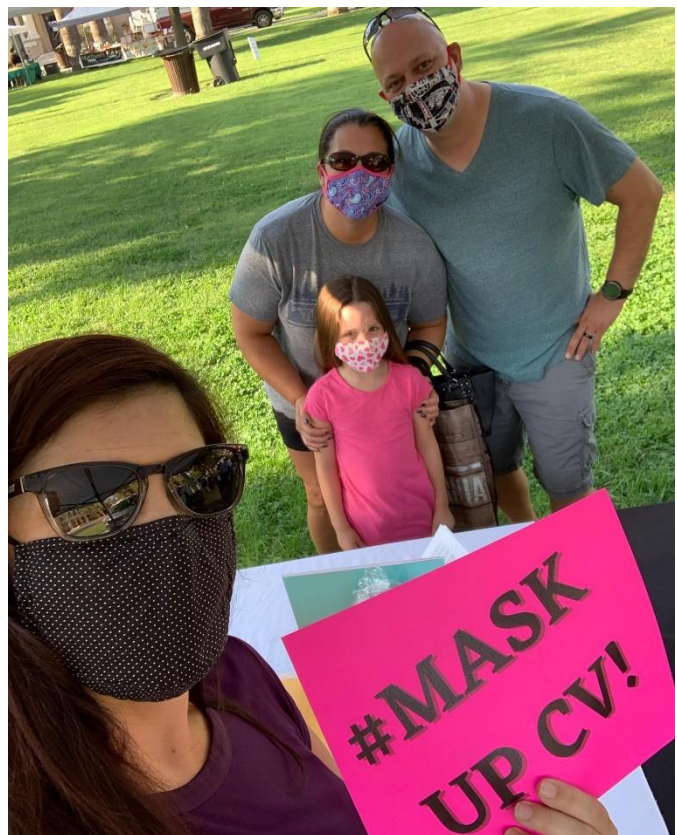
MASKUP CV CAMPAIGN

Members of the Merced Police Department and the Merced Fire Department have been going around the City today handing out \$100 gift cards to 10 lucky people.

The people were rewarded for wearing facial coverings as part of the Mask Up CV campaign, a program started by the Central Valley Community Foundation. The campaign is being conducted from Merced County to Kings County to encourage people to continue following the statewide mask mandate.

The 10 people in the City of Merced will be profiled in the next two weeks on the Foundation website, maskupcv.org, and also on the City's Facebook, Instagram and Twitter feeds.

The gift card winner posts will include why they are wearing a mask, and members of the public will be asked to share why they wear masks and to post photos.



PARKS & TREE CREWS IN ACTION

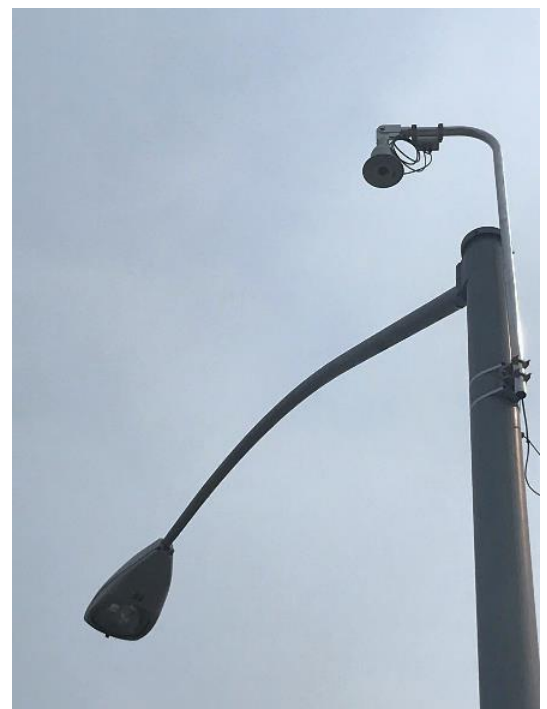
Parks crews from the Public Works Department made irrigation improvements at MLK & 18th Street this week.

Tree crews responded to a report of large downed limbs at 21st & Calimyrna.



15TH & R TRAFFIC LOOP DETECTION

Public Works Traffic Light Technicians installed a Gridsmart camera at 15th and R Street for traffic loop detection as the northbound and westbound loops had failed.



FIRE HYDRANT REPLACEMENT

Public Works Water crews began work for replacing a fire hydrant at E. 26th Street and Glen Avenue on Tuesday. Crews excavated and identified parts needed at this location.



ENGINEERING UPDATE

Water Well #20

Clark Bros. Inc. crew is working on electrical at the site and on building construction. This project is approximately 50% complete.



Water Well #21

Hobbs Construction crew finished paving the site. This project is approximately 98% complete.



Cooper Lift Station

Phase 1 Construction crew is preparing the site to pour concrete. This project is approximately 30% complete.



Upcoming Construction Projects (Council Award Date)

1. 120025 – Lab and Solids Buildings Restrooms (08/03/2020)
2. 120048 – M Street Grind and Overlay with ADA Upgrades, 8th to 13th Streets (08/17/2020)
3. 113031 – Brimmer Water Main Replacements

Projects in Design

- R Street Improvements, Loughborough to Buena Vista (95%)
- R Street Improvements, 16th to 18th (40%)
- Highway 59 Widening (Kickoff Meeting with Caltrans in 2-3 weeks)
- Highway 59 and 16th Street Signal and Channelization (90%)
- Alpine Drive Road Improvements and Water Main (98%)
- Motel Drive Multi-Use Path (95%)
- V Street, 16th to 18th Streets, Road Improvement (90%)
- N Street, 16th to 18th Streets, Roadway Improvement (95%)
- Gerard Avenue Sewer, Hwy 99 to Kibby (75%)
- B Street Improvements (30%)



APPLEGATE PARK ZOO

The Merced Applegate Park Zoo will make changes to Zoo operation hours beginning Thurs., Sept. 3. The schedule adjustment is due to the low visitation numbers that accompanies the return of students back to school. The new operating hours will be on Thursday-Friday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Saturday-Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

INSPECTION SERVICES REPORT

Please find attached the biweekly report from Inspection Services.

LEAGUE QUARTERLY MEETING

The Central Valley Division of the League of California Cities is having its quarterly meeting Thurs., Sept. 10 via Zoom. The meeting begins at 6 p.m. and the program at 7:15 p.m. A Zoom link will be sent to those who RSVP and register by Sept. 4. An invitation is attached. (Note, the date is missing from the invitation.)

LETTERS OF SUPPORT

Attached are letters of support to legislators regarding items of interest to the City. One is regarding AB 3312, the bill that would allow the City to annex UC Merced via Bellevue or Lake Road. The other letter urges Congress to pass a funding bill that would allocate \$500 billion to local governments.

SAVE THE DATE

Sept. 7 – Labor Day holiday

Sept. 8 – Council meeting

Sept. 10 – Central Division League virtual meeting, 6 p.m. social, 6:30 dinner

Sept. 21 – Council meeting

REPORTS & CORRESPONDENCE

- | | |
|--|--------|
| 1. Inspection Services report | Pg. 8 |
| 2. League Quarterly Meeting invitation | Pg. 9 |
| 3. Letters of Support | Pg. 10 |

Inspection Services CI

For the period of August 10th through August 23rd, 2020, there were 26 New Single Family Dwelling Permits Issued.

The running total of New Single Family Dwellings in Plan Review is **573**.

Multi Family Permits in review:

Gateway Terrace Apartments located at 405 W 12th St; 1 office/lounge and 6, 2 story apartments: 2 buildings have 16 units, 3 buildings have 30 units, and 1 building has 4 units for a total of 126 units. Compass Pointe phase II: 128 units in 16, 8-plex buildings, plus a clubhouse.

Merced Station (Yosemite at Lake Apartments) located at 2850 E. Yosemite Ave.; 11 of 15 multi-family apartment permits still pending issuance for buildings 5-15. 5 of those have been issued foundation-only permits (buildings 5-9), as well as the maintenance building. Each building is 27,276 SF, 3-story, 18 units. 72 units total have been issued thus far under 4 of the apartment permits and the master plan is approved.

The Childs & B St. project plan review is approved and the permit is pending issuance. It consists of 5 publicly funded apartment buildings and a community building in an affordable housing development consisting of 119 units on 4 acres located at 1157 B St.

There is also 1 new 2,438 SF duplex in review, located at 345 W. 23rd St.

There were 0 multi-family permits issued during this period.

(No change from last report)

There were 0 new construction commercial permits issued during this period.

There were 2 new tenant improvement permits issued during this period; one for the 6,504 Bitwise tenant improvement located at 1635 M St., and one for a 18,800 SF fitness center located at 1240 W. Main St.

There were 0 new commercial submittals during this period.

There was 1 new tenant improvement submittal during this period; for Bangkok Thai located at 235 W. Main St.

There were 0 CofOs issued for this period.

There were 21 CofOs for Single Family Dwellings during this period.



Central Valley Division Quarterly Meeting

6:00 p.m. Meeting begins
7:15 p.m. Program begins (when voting has
concluded and officers swore in)

Thank you to our sponsor California Water Service for your support of the Central Valley Division and the League of California Cities

Kindly RSVP by September 4th to: Stephen Qualls @ (209) 614-0118 or
squalls@cacities.org



CITY OF MERCED

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(209) 385-6834 • (209) 723-1780 FAX

August 21, 2020

Assembly Member Adam C. Gray
21st Assembly District
690 W. 16th St.
Merced, CA 95340

**RE: Assembly Bill 3312: Local Agency Formation: Annexation: City of Merced.
(Gray)
Letter of Support**

Dear Assembly Member Gray,

The City of Merced supports the Assembly Bill 3312; Local Agency Formation: Annexation: City of Merced. This proposed legislation would amend the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2,000 to provide for an alternative method for the City of Merced to annex the University of California, Merced main Campus and other contiguous territory.

The City is currently completing the North Merced Annexation Feasibility Study. The area is generally north of Yosemite Avenue to the extent of the City's existing Sphere of Influence (SOI). This study area includes the UC Merced Campus, Bellevue Community Plan Area, University Community Plan Area, the proposed Yosemite Lake Estates Plan Area, and other developed and undeveloped properties.

The City undertook this study due to increasing interest by private property owners to possibly annex and develop their land. The process has included many opportunities for public participation as well as outreach with various stakeholders. The City also initiated polls to registered voters and property owners to solicit their input on potential annexation. This work is nearing completion and now also contemplates the unique opportunity which is represented using the proposed language of AB 3312.

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We appreciate your efforts in the crafting of this legislation and work within the community. We look forward to the continuing support at the State level to enact this legislation. We are aware that the Assembly has acted in support of the bill and it is now being considered by the Senate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael W. Murphy". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Michael W. Murphy, Mayor
City of Merced



CITY OF MERCED

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(209) 385-6834 • (209) 723-1780 FAX

August 24, 2020

The Honorable Kamala Harris
Senator
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 2005

Dear Senator Harris,

On behalf of the City of Merced, I urge you to support \$500 billion in direct and flexible federal assistance to local governments of all sizes to sustain core services for our residents and to support public health and economic recovery in our communities.

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted municipal budgets across the country in ways that local governments could not have foreseen. Serving on the front lines of fighting this pandemic, California cities have stepped up by enacting emergency orders, setting up testing, protecting residents, supporting vulnerable populations, and helping local, small businesses stay afloat. These actions have saved lives, but they have come at a cost. This unprecedented and multifaceted COVID-19 response, including the shutdown of our local economies, has left California cities facing a nearly \$7 billion revenue shortfall over the next two years. This shortfall continues to grow by billions of dollars as modified stay-at-home orders have extended into the summer months. At the same time, California cities have incurred significant unplanned expenditures.

Without substantial new federal resources to offset expenses and address revenue shortfalls due to COVID-19, cities, who are required to balance their budgets every year, have no choice but to reduce or eliminate critical public services that our residents rely upon and layoff city employees. In a recent survey by the League of California Cities, ninety percent of cities say they will have to cut staff or decrease city services to residents, and nearly seventy-five percent of cities report they may have to take both actions.

The City of Merced already faces dire circumstances due to COVID-19. We have laid off part-time employees and frozen salaries and hiring. Following the huge downturn in the hospitality industry and the decline in hotel reservations, we have closed the travel-oriented Welcome Center. We have spent hundreds of thousands of dollars from our general fund on unforeseen coronavirus expenses. Programs in our Parks and Recreation Department have been eliminated. Every other Department in the City has reduced its budget to the

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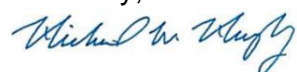
barebones, while still managing to function. Any more strain on our financial resources will lead to cutting our core operations and severely impacting services to our residents.

Cities need Congress to deliver this assistance with no minimum population threshold determining eligibility for funding to all of our communities now. We cannot afford to wait. The funding provided through the CARES Act was not enough to ensure that all local governments have the resources to stabilize local budgets and continue delivering local services, fighting this pandemic and supporting local recovery.

Cities are the economic engines of our state and the backbone of this nation. Recovery from this unprecedented crisis will only be realized at the local level with strong support from the federal government. We implore you to provide this assistance to our cities, so that we can continue to be your strong partner in California.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 209-385-6210.

Sincerely,



Michael W. Murphy, Mayor
City of Merced

The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Majority Leader, U.S. Senate:
katelyn_bunning@mcconnell.senate.gov, [Stefanie Muchow@mcconnell.senate.gov](mailto:Stefanie_Muchow@mcconnell.senate.gov),
[Scott Raab@mcconnell.senate.gov](mailto:Scott_Raab@mcconnell.senate.gov), [Sharon Soderstrom@mcconnell.senate.gov](mailto:Sharon_Soderstrom@mcconnell.senate.gov)

The Honorable Chuck Schumer, Minority Leader, U.S. Senate:
mike_lynch@schumer.senate.gov, erin_sager@schumer.senate.gov,
meghan_taira@schumer.senate.gov

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House, U.S. House of Representatives:
dan.bernal@mail.house.gov, Diane.Dewhirst@mail.house.gov,
robert.edmonson@mail.house.gov, Drew.Hammill@mail.house.gov,
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The Honorable Kevin McCarthy, Minority Leader, U.S. House of Representatives:
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kyle.lombardi@mail.house.gov, daniel.meyer@mail.house.gov,
james.min@mail.house.gov,

League of California Cities: SupportLocalRecovery@cacities.org



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(209) 385-6834 • (209) 723-1780 FAX

August 24, 2020

The Honorable Jim Costa
Congress Member
2081 Rayburn HOB
Washington, D.C. 2005

Dear Congressman Jim Costa,

On behalf of the City of Merced, I urge you to support \$500 billion in direct and flexible federal assistance to local governments of all sizes to sustain core services for our residents and to support public health and economic recovery in our communities.

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted municipal budgets across the country in ways that local governments could not have foreseen. Serving on the front lines of fighting this pandemic, California cities have stepped up by enacting emergency orders, setting up testing, protecting residents, supporting vulnerable populations, and helping local, small businesses stay afloat. These actions have saved lives, but they have come at a cost. This unprecedented and multifaceted COVID-19 response, including the shutdown of our local economies, has left California cities facing a nearly \$7 billion revenue shortfall over the next two years. This shortfall continues to grow by billions of dollars as modified stay-at-home orders have extended into the summer months. At the same time, California cities have incurred significant unplanned expenditures.

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If you have any questions, please contact me at 209-385-6210.

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The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Majority Leader, U.S. Senate:
katelyn_bunning@mcconnell.senate.gov, [Stefanie Muchow@mcconnell.senate.gov](mailto:Stefanie_Muchow@mcconnell.senate.gov),
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The Honorable Chuck Schumer, Minority Leader, U.S. Senate:
mike_lynch@schumer.senate.gov, erin_sager@schumer.senate.gov,
meghan_taira@schumer.senate.gov

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House, U.S. House of Representatives:
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George.Kundanis@mail.house.gov, Terri.McCullough@mail.house.gov,

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy, Minority Leader, U.S. House of Representatives:
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kyle.lombardi@mail.house.gov, daniel.meyer@mail.house.gov,
james.min@mail.house.gov,

League of California Cities: SupportLocalRecovery@cacities.org



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(209) 385-6834 • (209) 723-1780 FAX

August 24, 2020

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Senator
331 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 2005

Dear Senator Feinstein,

On behalf of the City of Merced, I urge you to support \$500 billion in direct and flexible federal assistance to local governments of all sizes to sustain core services for our residents and to support public health and economic recovery in our communities.

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted municipal budgets across the country in ways that local governments could not have foreseen. Serving on the front lines of fighting this pandemic, California cities have stepped up by enacting emergency orders, setting up testing, protecting residents, supporting vulnerable populations, and helping local, small businesses stay afloat. These actions have saved lives, but they have come at a cost. This unprecedented and multifaceted COVID-19 response, including the shutdown of our local economies, has left California cities facing a nearly \$7 billion revenue shortfall over the next two years. This shortfall continues to grow by billions of dollars as modified stay-at-home orders have extended into the summer months. At the same time, California cities have incurred significant unplanned expenditures.

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The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Majority Leader, U.S. Senate:
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The Honorable Chuck Schumer, Minority Leader, U.S. Senate:
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