



MERCED

THE CI

To: The Honorable Mayor and City Council
From: Stephanie R. Dietz, City Manager
Date: February 12, 2021
Re: City Council Information Report

ONCE AGAIN, MERCED FIRE DEPARTMENT HELPS SAVE LIVES

The City of Merced, Dignity Health-Mercy Medical Center, University of California Health, UC Merced, Merced College, and other health practitioners and volunteers have partnered with Merced County to facilitate COVID-19 vaccination clinics at Merced College. These vaccine doses were made available through Dignity Health and University of California Health. Hundreds of people were vaccinated



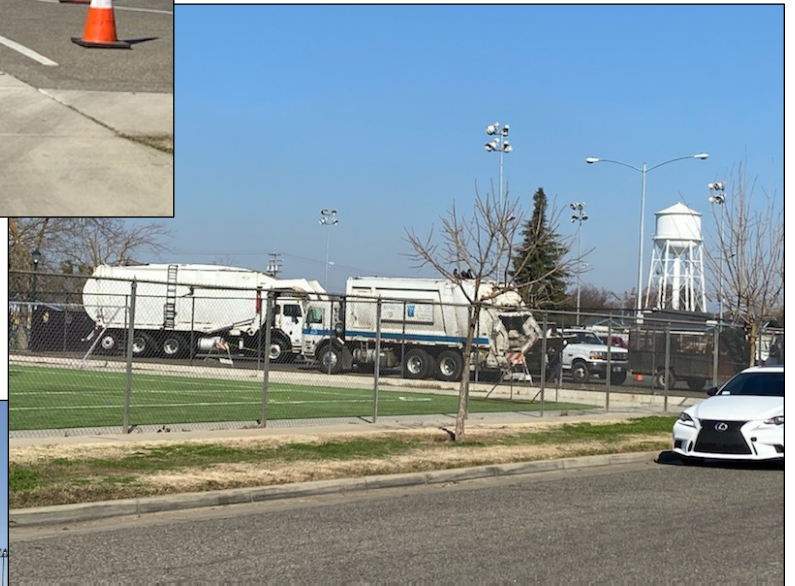
Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at the College, and two more clinics are scheduled for next week. In addition, the County has clinics scheduled to administer the second dose of the vaccine to eligible people.

COMMUNITY CLEANUP

Public Works Refuse crews assisted in the Community Cleanup this past weekend at the McNamara Park soccer fields parking lot. Roll-off containers were provided for the collection and separation of mattresses, tires, and metal. Crews also operated the front-loader and rear-loader vehicles for the disposal of miscellaneous trash.



COMMUNITY CLEANUP (continued)



MCNAMARA PARK

Public Works crews pruned trees, replaced light bulbs at the soccer fields, and cleaned up various debris at McNamara Park this week.



WATER CREWS IN ACTION

Public Works water crews repaired a 4-inch water main break at the intersection of Bedford Drive and Edmund Lane last week. In-progress photos below.



APPLEGATE/KIDDIE LAND FENCE REPAIRED

Public Works crews repaired a small section of damaged fence at Applegate Park that is shared with Kiddie Land.

BEFORE



AFTER



THE ZOO IS BACK WITH A ROAR! (AND MORE)



The Applegate Zoo re-opened Thurs., Feb. 4, after being shut down for almost two months, in accordance with the state's Stay-at-Home Order. Zoo staff kept busy during the shutdown performing extra cleaning and beautifying the grounds in anticipation of the re-opening. The zoo is still taking donations, from produce, toys, and blankets to benches, cleaning supplies and money. Every little bit helps, and the community has been a huge support during the pandemic.

Zoo days and hours remain adjusted to ensure the health and safety of the animals and the public. The Applegate Zoo is open Thursdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The cost is \$3 for adults, \$2 for children ages 5 – 15, and \$1.50 for seniors. Children under 5 are free.



VALENTINE'S MEANS BINGO NIGHTS!

The Merced Youth Council will hold its second annual Virtual Bingo: *Valentine's Special*, scheduled for tonight and Saturday, at 6 p.m. via Zoom.

Virtual Bingo is a great way to fill some time on the weekend with friends and family. It's extremely easy to play and most of all, win some cool items.

Players can register for a bingo card by scanning the barcode on flyer. One card per person. A PDF of the flier is attached.

THE MERCED YOUTH COUNCIL PRESENTS

Virtual Bingo Nights!

Valentine's Special

Merced Residents Only
First 100 People

 SCAN TO PLAY!	FEBRUARY 12TH AND 13TH AT 6PM
	ZOOM MEETING ID: 858 5348 1295 PASSWORD: mercedyc

Prizes await our winners!
Follow us on social media for more info!

@MERCEDYOUTH  MERCED YOUTH COUNCIL  @MERCEDYOUTHCOUNCIL

 **FOR MORE INFORMATION EMAIL :
YOUTHOUNCIL@CITYOFMERCED.ORG** 



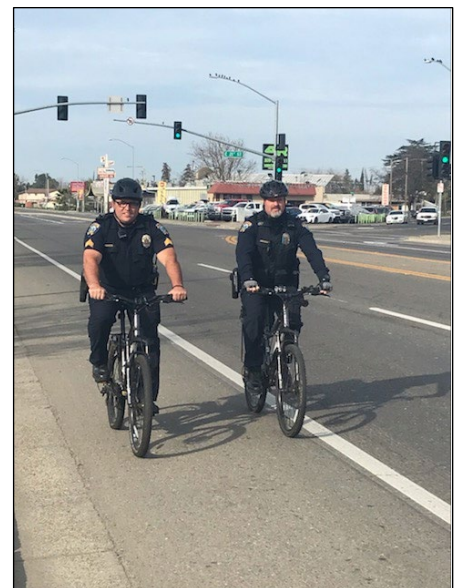
MPD EXPLORERS HELP WITH COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP

On Saturday, 18 MPD Explorers helped with the South Merced Community clean-up event. The Explorers walked the streets and alleys near McNamara Park picking up garbage, tires, and other trash. After that assignment was completed they didn't stop. The Explorers returned to McNamara Park and assisted local church groups hand out lunches to participants.

The Explorers are a volunteer youth group sponsored by the Merced Police Department and the Lions Club. They focus on community service and developing leaders in the community. The program teaches the importance of giving back to the community for youth ages 14-18. People interested in the MPD Explorers should contact Sgt. Mark Jenkins at 209-388-7741 or JenkinsM@cityofmerced.org

YOSEMITE PARKWAY CLEANUP COMING

DART, Code Enforcement and MPD Bike Patrol Officers will be spending some time on Yosemite Parkway in the weeks to come. They will be working to clean up blight, suppress crime and build relationships with the businesses and the community.



GANG UNIT ARRESTS HOMICIDE SUSPECT

On Feb. 10 at 3:15 P.M. Merced Police responded to a shooting in the 600 block of W. 11th Street. Officers found a 22-year-old male suffering from a gunshot wound. The Merced Police Department Gang Violence Suppression Unit was in the area at the time and observed the 14-year-old male suspect running from the scene. Upon detaining the suspect, a firearm was recovered. The motive continues to be under investigation, but the shooting is believed to be gang related. The victim was transported to a local hospital where he was later pronounced deceased.



**Gang Violence Suppression
Unit**

MPD RECOGNIZED FOR ITS TRAINING

The Merced Police Department was recently recognized by Lexipol for its efforts in training with the 2020 Lexipol Connect Gold. Lexipol continuously issues updates and Daily Training Bulletins (DTBs) reflecting state and federal laws and best practices. In 2020, Lexipol reviewed more than 14,000 changes to state and federal law to keep the MPD manual up-to-date. The Department will share photos of the plaque honoring the accomplishment with the public when it arrives. The Merced Police Departments takes pride in the level of training and professionalism of its officers and staff.



ENGINEERING UPDATE

Gerard Ave. Sewer Main -- Hwy 99 to Kibby Road

The Rolfe Construction Company crew is laying sewer pipe. This project is 3% complete.



R Street Rehabilitation – Loughborough Drive to Buena Vista Drive

United Pavement Maintenance, Inc., crews are working on pavement marking. This project is 80% complete.



Brimmer Water Main

The Mid Cal Pipeline & Utilities, Inc., crew is working on installing new water services. This project is 90% complete.



Water Well Site #20

Clark Bros., Inc., crews are getting the site ready to pave. This project is approximately 93% complete.



M Street Resurfacing -- 8th Street to 13th Street

The MVC Enterprises, Inc., staff is working on pavement markings. This project is approximately 90% complete.



***Alpine Drive – G St. to
Wainwright Ave.
Improvements***

TBS Contractors has no updates to report. This project is approximately 71% complete.



Construction Projects

1. 107033 - Water Well Site #20
2. 113031- Brimmer Water Main
3. 114004 - Cooper Lift Station
4. 117020 - Gerard Ave. Sewer Main – Hwy 99 to Kibby Road
5. 119006 - Alpine Drive – G St. to Wainwright Ave. Improvements
6. 119003 - R St. Rehabilitation – Loughborough Dr. to Buena Vista Dr.
7. 120008 - Crack Filling Phase 1 (16th, G St, Olive Ave)
8. 120010 - M Street Resurfacing – 8th Street to 13th Street

Projects in Design

1. Highway 59 Widening
2. Highway 59 and 16th Street, Signal and Channelization (90%)
3. Motel Drive Multi-Use Path (100%)
4. V Street, 16th to 18th Streets, Road Improvement (95%)
5. N Street, 16th to 18th Streets, Roadway Improvement (100%)
6. R Street, 16th to 18th (70%)
7. B Street Improvements (40%)
8. G Street Improvements Childs to 13th St. (100%)
9. Orchard Avenue Sewer (40%)

INSPECTION SERVICES REPORT

Please find attached the biweekly Inspection Services report.

LETTER OF SUPPORT

Please find attached a letter of support for AB 62, authored by Assembly Member Adam Gray, that would assist small businesses. Also attached is a fact sheet on the bill.

PLANNING COMMISSION AGENDA

Please find attached the Planning Commission agenda for the Weds., Feb. 17 meeting.

REPORTS & CORRESPONDENCE

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------|
| 1. Virtual Bingo flier | Pg. 16 |
| 2. Inspection Services report | Pg. 17 |
| 3. AB 62 Letter of Support/fact sheet | Pg. 18 |
| 4. Planning Commission Agenda | Pg. 21 |

Inspection Services CI

For the period of January 25th, 2020 through February 7th, 2021, there were 21 New Single Family Dwelling Permits Issued.

The running total of New Single Family Dwellings in Plan Review is **330**.

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.

There is a fire damage repair that is also adding an ADU located at 1740 Shirley St.

There was 1 multi-family permit issued during this period; for a new SFD/ADU combo totaling 2,901 SF located at 419 E. Olive Ave.

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

There were 2 new tenant improvement permits issued during this period; one for a 3,550 SF Dentist Office located at 60 W. Olive Ave., and one for ADA upgrades to the restrooms at Family Urgent Care located at 2644 M St.

There were 0 new commercial submittals during this period.

There were 2 new tenant improvement submittals during this period; one for an office and loading docks at 1870 Wardrobe Ave., and one for Level Up Barcade located at 325 W. Main St.

There were 2 CofOs issued for this period; one for ADA upgrades and a stair enclosure at 2517 Canal St., and one for the 1,912 SF Starbucks located at 1665 R St.

There were 19 CofOs for Single Family Dwellings during this period.



CITY OF MERCED

MERCED

February 10, 2021

The Honorable Adam Gray
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 3152
Sacramento, CA 94249

RE: AB 62 – COVID-19 Small and Essential Business Tax Credit (Support)

Dear Assemblymember Gray:

The City of Merced supports Assembly Bill 62, which would provide small and essential businesses an income tax credit for the costs of complying with the Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Emergency Temporary Standards.

On November 19, 2020 the Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA) adopted a series of COVID-19 emergency workplace standards that apply to nearly every employer operating in the State of California. The new regulations were adopted under a truncated public review process without adequate time for input from large and small businesses alike. As a result, the regulations impose the same standards on every size employer without regard to feasibility, affordability, or applicability in the millions of different workplaces that exist across a state of 40 million people.

These regulations come at a time of significant economic uncertainty for employees and employers alike. With levels of unemployment reaching records not seen since the Great Depression, and government-imposed economic shutdowns keeping businesses closed or significantly depressing revenue, many businesses are struggling to keep their doors open and their lights on. Layering new and unfeasible regulatory compliance costs on top of these existing challenges has the potential to set off a wave of permanent business closures and job losses.

To mitigate the financial impacts of the COVID-19 Emergency Temporary Standards on small and essential businesses, AB 62 provides a limited income tax credit dedicated to offsetting the costs of complying with these workplace standards. Every dollar allocated under AB 62 will go directly to combating the spread of COVID-19 and keeping employees and the public safe from this global pandemic.



CITY OF MERCED

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Federal and state programs have dedicated billions of dollars to help employers stay in business, but too often this assistance is insufficient or inaccessible. These programs have suffered from too many complex application systems, inadequate funding, and unclear requirements and timelines. Business owners are needed at their workplaces, not stuck behind a desk deciphering bureaucratic forms.

AB 62 avoids this unnecessary bureaucracy and instead provides direct financial aid to businesses taking action to help all of us combat COVID-19.

The City of Merced supports AB 62 because it is vital to not only open our businesses, but to keep them running. This not only benefits our merchants, but also their employees and our economy. AB 62 helps our local businesses remain viable and continue to serve our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matthew Serratto".

Matthew Serratto, Mayor
City of Merced



FACT SHEET
 AB 62 (Gray)
 COVID-19 Small and Essential Business Tax Credit

SUMMARY

AB 62 provides small and essential businesses with an income tax credit for the costs of complying with the Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Emergency Temporary Standards.

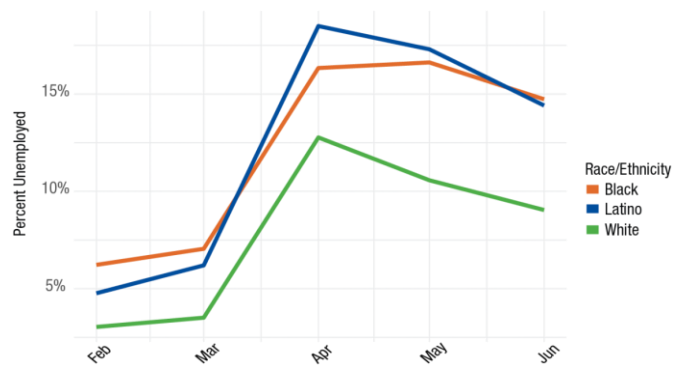
PROBLEM

On November 19, 2020 the Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA) adopted a series of COVID-19 emergency workplace standards that apply to nearly every employer operating in the State of California. The new regulations were adopted under a truncated public review process without adequate time for input from large and small businesses alike. As a result, the regulations impose the same standards on every size employer without regard to feasibility, affordability, or applicability in the millions of different workplaces that exist across a state of 40 million people.

These regulations come at a time of significant economic uncertainty for employees and employers alike. With levels of unemployment reaching records not seen since the Great Depression, and government-imposed economic shutdowns keeping businesses closed or significantly depressing revenue, many businesses are struggling to keep their doors open and their lights on. Layering new and unfeasible regulatory compliance costs on top of these existing challenges has the potential to set off a wave of permanent business closures and job losses. For example, in the restaurant industry alone, COVID-19 has already forced 1

out of 6 restaurants to close permanently or long-term and more than 3 million restaurant employees remain out of work. 500,000 restaurants have been identified as being at risk of going out of business due to COVID-19. The situation is similar for nearly every business segment across the state.

Job losses and economic impacts have not been felt equally across the board. As shown in the graph below, COVID-19 induced unemployment amongst Black and Latino Americans increased more quickly and has been slower to recover than amongst White Americans.

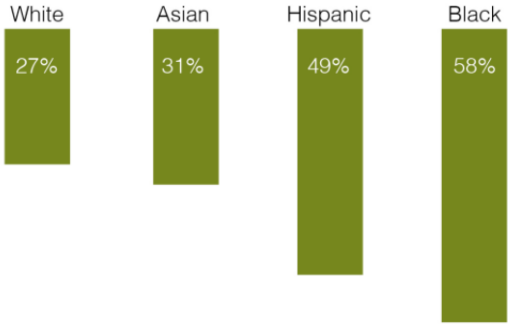


This discrepancy is even starker when observing the impact of COVID-19 on minority-owned small businesses. The National Bureau of Economic Research estimates that the number of actively working, self-employed Black business owners decreased the most of any group at 41 percent followed by Latino and Asian workers at 32% and 26% respectively. In contrast, White-owned businesses saw a still devastating, but comparatively smaller, reduction of 17%.



FACT SHEET
 AB 62 (Gray)
 COVID-19 Small and Essential Business Tax Credit

As shown in the graph below, 58% of Black-owned businesses report being financially distressed at a rate more than double that of White-owned businesses.



and instead provides direct financial aid to businesses taking action to help all of us combat COVID-19.

STAFF CONTACT

Adam Capper
 (916) 319-2021

SOLUTION

To mitigate the financial impacts of the COVID-19 Emergency Temporary Standards on small and essential businesses, AB 62 provides a limited income tax credit dedicated to offsetting the costs of complying with these workplace standards. Every dollar allocated under AB 62 will go directly to combating the spread of COVID-19 and keeping employees and the public safe from this global pandemic.

Federal and state programs have dedicated billions of dollars to help employers stay in business, but too often this assistance is insufficient or inaccessible. These programs have suffered from too many complex application systems, inadequate funding, and unclear requirements and timelines. Business owners are needed at their workplaces, not stuck behind a desk deciphering bureaucratic forms.

AB 62 avoids this unnecessary bureaucracy



CITY OF MERCED

Merced Civic Center
678 W. 18th Street
Merced, CA 95340

Meeting Agenda

Planning Commission

Wednesday, February 17, 2021

7:00 PM

City Council Chamber, 2nd Floor, Merced Civic
Center, 678 W. 18th Street, Merced, CA 95340

NOTICE TO PUBLIC

Pursuant to Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-29-20, this meeting will be conducted by teleconference and there will be no in-person public access to the meeting location.

WELCOME TO THE MEETING OF THE MERCED PLANNING COMMISSION

At least 72 hours prior to each regular Planning Commission meeting, a complete agenda packet is available for review on the City's website at www.cityofmerced.org or at the Planning Division Office, 678 W. 18th Street, Merced, CA 95340. All public records relating to an open session item that are distributed to a majority of the Commission will be available for public inspection at the Planning Division Office during regular business hours. The Planning Commission also serves as the Board of Zoning Adjustment and the Design Review/Historic Preservation Commission.

MODIFIED PUBLIC COMMENT INSTRUCTIONS

MODIFIED PUBLIC COMMENT INSTRUCTIONS FOR TELECONFERENCE MEETINGS

Please submit your public comment to the Planning Commission electronically no later than 1 PM on the day of the meeting. Comments received before the deadline will be sent to the Planning Commission and will be part of the record and will be mentioned as part of the Public Comment portion of the agenda. Material may be emailed to planningweb@cityofmerced.org and should be limited to 300 words or less. Please specify which portion of the agenda you are commenting on, i.e. Oral Communication or item #. Any correspondence received after the 1 PM deadline will be distributed to the Planning Commission and retained for the official record.

You may provide telephonic comments via voicemail by calling (209) 388-7390 by no later than 1 PM on the day of the meeting to be added to the public comment. Voicemails will be limited to a time limit of three (3) minutes. Please specify which portion of the agenda you are commenting on, for example, Oral Communication or item #. Your comments will be played during the meeting to the Planning Commission at the appropriate time.

To view video (if available) or listen to the Planning Commission meeting live, go to the City's website www.cityofmerced.org, Facebook Live, or Comcast Public Access Channel 96.

INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

Accommodation for individuals with disabilities may be arranged by contacting the Planning Division at (209) 385-6858. Assisted hearing devices are available for meetings held in the Council Chamber.

A. CALL TO ORDER

A.1. Moment of Silence

A.2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

B. ROLL CALL

C. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Members of the public who wish to speak on any matter not listed on the agenda may provide email or voicemail comments during this portion of the meeting and should follow the guidelines posted above in the **MODIFIED PUBLIC COMMENT INSTRUCTIONS** to do so.

D. CONSENT CALENDAR

Adoption of the Consent Calendar may be made by one motion of the Planning Commission, provided that any Planning Commission member, individual, or organization may request removal of an item from the Consent Calendar for separate consideration (please see **MODIFIED PUBLIC COMMENT INSTRUCTIONS** above). If a request for removal of an item from the Consent Calendar has been received, the item will be discussed and voted on separately.

D.1 [21-151](#) **SUBJECT:** Planning Commission Minutes of February 3, 2021

ACTION:

Approving and filing the Planning Commission Minutes of February 3, 2021

E. PUBLIC HEARINGS AND ACTION ITEMS

Members of the public who wish to speak on the public hearings listed on the agenda will be heard when the Public Hearing is opened, except on Public Hearing items previously heard and closed to the public comment. After the public has commented, the item is closed to further public comment and brought to the Commission for discussion and action. Further comment will not be received unless requested by the Commission. To submit comments to the Commission, please review the **MODIFIED PUBLIC COMMENT INSTRUCTIONS** listed above.

E.1 [20-803](#)

SUBJECT: General Plan Amendment #20-02 and Site Utilization Plan Revision #1 to Planned Development #12, initiated by Robert Vermeltfoort on behalf of REM Land Group, LLC, Property Owner. This application involves consideration of a change from Commercial Office (CO) and Industrial (IND) to Business Park. The new Site Utilization Plan envisions a proposed mini-mart with fuel island, a proposed drive-through business and a proposed office/retail building. The property is generally located at the northeast corner of State Highway 59 and Olive Avenue., within a zoning classification of Planned Development (P-D) #12. ****PUBLIC HEARING****

ACTION

No action required, item to be tabled.

SUMMARY

Staff is requesting that this item be tabled at the request of the applicant. The applicant has requested additional time to provide an updated traffic study.

RECOMMENDATION

Planning staff recommends that the Planning Commission open the public hearing and hear any testimony provided, then table the matter.

E.2 [21-104](#)

SUBJECT: General Plan Amendment #20-01 and Site Utilization Plan Revision #23 to Planned Development (P-D) #16 for approximately 6.39 acres of land, generally located on the south side of Devonwood Drive, east of Wal-Mart. The General Plan Amendment would change the General Plan designation from Low-Medium Density Residential (LMD) to High Density Residential (HMD). The Site Utilization Plan Revision would change the Site Utilization Plan designation from Single Family Residential to Multi-Family Residential. These changes would allow the future development of a 156-unit apartment complex. ****PUBLIC HEARING****

ACTION Item to be Tabled; No Action Required

SUMMARY

The applicant is considering other options for this property. Therefore, he has agreed to table the matter until a final decision has been made.

RECOMMENDATION

The Item is being Tabled; no action required.

F. INFORMATION ITEMS

F.1. [20-737](#) **SUBJECT:** Report by Planning Manager of Upcoming Agenda Items

ACTION

Information only.

F.2 [21-152](#) **SUBJECT:** Calendar of Meetings/Events

- Feb. 16 City Council, 6:00 p.m. (**By Teleconference**)
- 17 Planning Commission, 7:00 p.m. (**By Teleconference**)
- 23 Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Commission, 4:00 p.m. (**By Teleconference**)
- Mar. 1 City Council, 6:00 p.m. (**May be by Teleconference**)
- 3 Planning Commission, 7:00 p.m. (**By Teleconference**)
- 15 City Council, 6:00 p.m. (**May be by Teleconference**)
- 17 Planning Commission, 7:00 p.m. (**By Teleconference**)
- Apr. 5 City Council, 6:00 p.m. (**May be by Teleconference**)
- 7 Planning Commission, 7:00 p.m. (**By Teleconference**)
- 19 City Council, 6:00 p.m. (**May be by Teleconference**)
- 21 Planning Commission, 7:00 p.m. (**By Teleconference**)
- 27 Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Commission, 4:00 p.m. (**By Teleconference**)

G. ADJOURNMENT