

RESOLUTION R-5424

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO TAKE THE NECESSARY ACTIONS TO ENSURE THAT PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PROGRAMS AND FACILITIES ARE OPERATED TO SLOW THE SPREAD OF THE COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS, PRIORITIZE THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF RESIDENTS AND PARKS EMPLOYEES AND SUPPORT VULNERABLE POPULATIONS IMPACTED BY THE PANDEMIC THROUGH SEPTEMBER 1, 2020.

1 WHEREAS, the City Manager proclaimed an emergency to
2 exist in Kirkland as a result of the illness known as COVID-19
3 caused by the novel coronavirus identified as SARS-CoV-2 on
4 February 29, 2020, which proclamation was ratified by the City
5 Council through Resolution R-5411 on March 3, 2020; and
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7 WHEREAS, COVID-19 was officially declared a pandemic by
8 the World Health Organization on March 11, 2020 and has spread
9 throughout the world, including the United States, the state of
10 Washington and the city of Kirkland; and
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12 WHEREAS, the State of Washington and King County have
13 each proclaimed an emergency to exist as a result of COVID-19;
14 and
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16 WHEREAS, the President of the United States has declared
17 an emergency to exist as a result of COVID-19 and issued a major
18 disaster declaration for the state of Washington in connection
19 therewith; and
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21 WHEREAS, the facts giving rise to such emergency
22 proclamations and declarations continue to exist; and
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24 WHEREAS, throughout the pandemic, the City of Kirkland
25 has prioritized protecting the health and safety of the community
26 and Kirkland employees through following medically based
27 guidelines established by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC),
28 the Washington Department of Health and Public Health – Seattle
29 & King County, as well as following orders and directives from the
30 Governor’s Office; and
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32 WHEREAS, on May 1, 2020, Governor Jay Inslee
33 announced “Safe Start”, a four-phased plan for easing stay-at-
34 home restrictions and reopening Washington businesses and
35 institutions, along with metrics necessary to advance Washington
36 to each new phase, and indicated that Washington would remain
37 in the first phase through at least May 31, 2020; and
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39 WHEREAS, businesses and activities authorized to re-open
40 in each phase, including those programs and facilities operated by
41 the Parks and Community Services Department, must comply with

42 rigorous social distancing and hygiene guidelines required by the
43 Governor’s Order to help avoid the spread of COVID-19 at such
44 businesses and as a result of such activities; and
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46 WHEREAS, as a result of the COVID-19 impacts, Parks and
47 Community Services must consider a number of important, and
48 sometimes competing, factors in connection with its decisions
49 about offering City summer recreation programs and services and
50 making facilities available during the summer of 2020, including,
51 among other things, the safety of the public and City staff, social
52 distancing and hygiene guidelines provided by the CDC and public
53 health, work force requirements, limiting risk and liability
54 associated with certain high-risk activities, staffing limitations,
55 facilities and staff availability for human services needs during the
56 pandemic, the physical and mental health of the community, and
57 reduced financial resources; and
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59 WHEREAS, individuals in Kirkland lacking necessary food
60 and shelter, mental health and domestic violence services, and
61 other critical human services are among those who continue to be
62 most impacted by COVID-19 and in need of immediate assistance;
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65 WHEREAS, City parks continue to receive heavy usage,
66 including user demands for City personnel to assist with an
67 increasing tension between amenity openings and “Stay Home,
68 Stay Safe” restrictions; and
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70 WHEREAS, re-opening remaining City park amenities such
71 as public restrooms, sports courts and playgrounds can be
72 accomplished with fewer competing considerations; and
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74 WHEREAS, the City’s recreation facilities and employees
75 could be made available to assist with meeting the overwhelming
76 parks and human services demands if recreation staff and facilities
77 are not needed to provide 2020 summer recreation programming;
78 and
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80 WHEREAS, the Kirkland community is seeking information
81 and a greater degree of certainty on the parks, facilities, and City
82 summer recreation programs and services available for the
83 summer of 2020 so that individual families, businesses, vendors,
84 non-profit organizations, event providers and youth and adult
85 sports organizations may plan for the summer; and
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87 WHEREAS, the pandemic has created significant job losses
88 and financial impacts on the residents and businesses of the
89 nation, Washington State and Kirkland, including a projected six
90 million dollars loss of City general fund revenues through June 30,
91 2020 alone; and
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93 WHEREAS, in response to this lost revenue, the City
94 Manager has instituted immediate budget action priorities such as
95 halting general fund contributions to reserves, internal service
96 funds and sinking funds; deferring fleet and technology

97 purchases; halting and reprioritizing selected capital projects;
98 freezing professional services contracts and out-of-state travel
99 and training; limiting the hiring of summer seasonal employees
100 for public works and parks maintenance; freezing all temporary
101 vacancies and selected on-going vacancies; and partnering with
102 labor unions to identify further cost savings throughout the year.

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104 NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Kirkland
105 do resolve as follows:

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107 Section 1. The City Council hereby authorizes the City
108 Manager to implement the actions identified in Sections 2 through
109 10 below through September 1, 2020 to help reduce the spread
110 of COVID-19 and to protect the health of Kirkland residents,
111 visitors and private and public sector employees. The City Council
112 further authorizes the City Manager to modify these actions to
113 respond as necessary to new or evolving information and new
114 COVID-19 directives or guidelines provided by the federal, state
115 or county governments.

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117 Section 2. Parks, trails, beachfront parks, dog parks, docks
118 and piers, Marina Park moorage, boat launches, the Marina Park
119 restroom and the cemetery are currently open in compliance with
120 Phase 1 of the Governor's "Safe Start" reopening plan and will
121 remain open throughout the summer consistent with Phase 1
122 guidelines.

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124 Section 3. When Phase 2 of the Governor's "Safe Start"
125 reopening plan is authorized, Parks & Community Services will
126 reopen all public park restrooms, picnic shelters, and tennis and
127 pickleball courts and may allow park vendors to operate in City
128 parks.

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130 Section 4. When Phase 3 of the Governor's "Safe Start"
131 reopening plan is authorized, Parks and Community Services will
132 reopen all park playgrounds, park pavilions, sports courts for
133 basketball and volleyball, and allow informal use of athletic fields.

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135 Section 5. Parks and Community Services staff will offer
136 virtual programming free of charge during the summer, including
137 online instructional programs, art and science events, virtual
138 community-building social, cultural and athletic events. "Pop-up"
139 programming in parks may be implemented after Phase 3 of the
140 Governor's "Safe Start" reopening plan is authorized.

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142 Section 6. The Peter Kirk Pool shall be closed for the
143 summer season. The Peter Kirk Community Center and the North
144 Kirkland Community Center shall be closed for public use through
145 September 1, 2020 except to provide selected senior services and
146 support for human service needs.

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148 Section 7. All public, private and non-profit special events
149 that use City facilities and infrastructure are cancelled through
150 September 1, 2020. Special events may be rescheduled after
151 September 1 if authorized by the Governor's "Safe Start"

152 reopening plan. The two event per month park use limit may be
153 waived after September 1 for those events determined by the City
154 Manager to generate public or economic benefit to City
155 businesses.

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159 Section 8. Green Kirkland Partnership restoration events
160 are suspended until September 1, 2020 and Green Kirkland
161 Partnership staff will be reallocated to support ongoing or
162 emerging park monitoring and human service needs.

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165 Section 9. All current parks recreational programming,
166 except for programming described in Section 10, below, is
167 cancelled through September 1, 2020 to allow City recreation staff
168 to prepare for COVID-19 modified programming after September
169 1. Recreation staff will be reallocated to support emerging park
170 monitoring and human service needs.

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173 Section 10. Formal athletic field scheduling and rentals by
174 organized sports leagues and programs are suspended through
175 September 1, 2020. Informal use of the City athletic fields may
176 be allowed when Phase 3 of the Governor’s “Safe Start” reopening
177 plan is authorized.

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180 Passed by majority vote of the Kirkland City Council in open
181 meeting this ____ day of _____, 2020.
Signed in authentication thereof this ____ day of
_____, 2020.

Penny Sweet, Mayor

Attest:

Kathi Anderson, City Clerk