

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  
58

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;  
63 and  
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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  
73

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  
86

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  
92

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.

116  
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.

123  
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.

129  
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.

134  
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.

141  
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.

156  
157 Section 8. Green Kirkland Partnership restoration events  
158 are suspended until September 1, 2020 and Green Kirkland  
159 Partnership staff will be reallocated to support ongoing or  
160 emerging park monitoring and human service needs.

161  
162 Section 9. All current parks recreational programming,  
163 except for programming described in Section 10, below, is  
164 cancelled through September 1, 2020 to allow City recreation staff  
165 to prepare for COVID-19 modified programming after September  
166 1. Recreation staff will be reallocated to support emerging park  
167 monitoring and human service needs.

168  
169 Section 10. City-sponsored program use of athletic fields  
170 is suspended through September 1, 2020. Athletic field rental and  
171 scheduling by the City for all outside organized sports leagues may  
172 be allowed through the City's field allocation process and by  
173 paying existing field rental rates after Phase 3 of the Governor's  
174 "Safe Start" reopening plan is authorized. To qualify for scheduled  
175 rental field use, outside organized sports leagues must implement  
176 safety plans that comply with the physical distancing and virus  
177 spread prevention guidelines required by the State of Washington,  
178 Public Health: Seattle & King County, and Centers for Disease  
179 Control. Organizations must also provide insurance and sign  
180 indemnification and waiver agreements relieving the City of  
181 liability for injuries, including for the spread of the coronavirus, as  
182 a result of using the fields. Although City athletic field scheduling  
183 will be allowed during Phase 3, the City will also reserve time for  
184 informal use of the fields during Phase 3. The City Manager shall  
185 invest the financial resources necessary to ensure that athletic  
186 fields are maintained and prepared by Parks staff to help ensure  
187 safe play by all organized sports when Phase 3 is authorized,  
188 recognizing that service levels may be reduced from usual  
189 standards. The City Manager is requested to provide this funding  
190 from the park levy or other funds that cannot otherwise be used  
191 for human services or business support."

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Passed by majority vote of the Kirkland City Council in open meeting this 19 day of May, 2020.

Signed in authentication thereof this 19 day of May, 2020.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Penny Sweet, Mayor

Attest:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kathi Anderson, City Clerk