



CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH

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PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Manhattan Beach City Council Moves to Protect Consumers during Pandemic
By Adopting Urgency Ordinances to Address Price Gouging and Evictions**

Manhattan Beach, CA (March 18, 2020) - Using its authority to adopt an Urgency Ordinance, the Manhattan Beach City Council unanimously adopted two ordinances to address price gouging at local businesses and to protect commercial and residential renters from eviction resulting from coronavirus-related circumstances.

The price gouging ordinance identifies price increases in excess of 10% during a proclaimed Local State of Emergency to be price gouging and in violation of the City's laws. Price gouging definitions apply to:

- All consumer goods and services including hand sanitizer, toilet paper and bottled water
- Construction, repair and clean up services
- Hotel and motel daily rental rates

"In times of duress we need to move to protect our community and bring a steady hand to the operations of our local economy. This ordinance reinforces that in times of crisis, government, the community and businesses must work together to get through difficult times and treat each other fairly," said Mayor Richard Montgomery.

The Ordinance accommodates for a rise in underlying wholesale prices and prohibits price gouging due to emergency circumstances. The City proclaimed a Local State of Emergency this past week in response to the rising coronavirus pandemic.

Seeking to protect residential and commercial tenants who find their income reduced or eliminated due to the impact of coronavirus (COVID-19), the City Council adopted an anti-eviction ordinance to protect tenants who lose income related to coronavirus. Loss of income can be related to:

- Being sick with COVID-19, or caring for a household or family member who is sick with COVID-19;

- Lay-off, loss of hours, or other income reduction resulting from business closure or other economic or employer impacts of COVID-19;
- Compliance with a recommendation from a government health authority to stay home, self-quarantine, or avoid congregating with others during the state of emergency;
- Extraordinary out-of-pocket medical expenses; or
- Child care needs arising from school closures related to COVID-19.

Additionally, so long as the coronavirus-related Local State of Emergency is in place, no fault evictions are suspended within the City.

“Now is not the time to evict people or businesses. We know there is going to be great strain on the economy, but we also recognize that evicting people and businesses during this crisis will only exacerbate the COVID-19 risks and place more of our community at risk of health impacts,” commented Mayor Montgomery.

The City of Manhattan Beach has declared a Local State of Emergency and is implementing or carrying out sweeping operational changes to aid the crisis response to COVID-19. These temporary changes are designed to ensure public safety and sustain the critical fundamental services of the City.

As the COVID-19 pandemic evolves, the City of Manhattan Beach will continue to provide updates. Information regarding the coronavirus is changing frequently. For accurate and up to date information about COVID-19, please visit [DPH's website](#), [the City's website](#), [sign up for eNotifications](#) and [Nixle](#) public safety alerts, and follow the City on [Facebook](#), Twitter, [Nextdoor](#), and Instagram.

For questions on the implementation of the County's Order and new City measures related to addressing COVID-19, please send an email to covid-19questions@citymb.info.

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