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## PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE March 13, 2020

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## City cancels events and gatherings in accordance with state recommendations

WESTMINSTER, Calif. - The California Health Department of Public Health has issued guidelines regarding gatherings to protect public health and slow the rate of transmission of the coronavirus (COVID-19). The recommendations include postponing or canceling large gatherings of 250 people or more or smaller gatherings in venues that do not allow social distancing, and limiting gatherings of high-risk individuals to no more than 10 people, at least through the month of March.

Although Westminster does not have any confirmed cases, in light of the growing public health concerns regarding COVID-19, the City of Westminster is taking steps to protect the safety of the community. The following events and classes and have been canceled, effectively immediately:

- All Senior Center programs including:
  - Senior Dance on March 13 and 27
  - St. Patrick's Day Party on March 17
  - o ESL, Pinochle, Board Game Club, Bridge, Blood Pressure, and Ukulele classes through the end of March
- City Council Special Meeting/Study Session on March 25
- All community Block Walk events
- Annual Spring Festival on April 4

From March 13 through March 27, the front lobby of the police department will be closed to the public. All residents are encouraged to call the general phone line at (714) 898-3315 for instructions on how to manage their police business. Professional staff and officers will be available during regular business hours to answer questions and provide information regarding police matters during the lobby closure. The department will remain staffed with personnel to respond to emergency calls for service and provide for public safety.

While there are no immediate plans to close the City Hall lobby, residents and business owners are strongly encouraged to limit visits to City Hall or city facilities, and instead call or email staff for assistance or use the following alternative methods:

- Water bill payments Online or via telephone at (855) 288-5234
- <u>Dog license application or renewal</u> Online
- Public records requests Email or call (714) 548-3237
- Claims for damages Mail
- Process server for delivery of subpoenas and summons Call (714) 548-3237

City staff will continue to work with local health officials and monitor the situation. As new information becomes available, staff will provide updates on the city's dedicated coronavirus update webpage.

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