



# PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **City of Laguna Niguel Reaffirms its Commitment to Assisting Residents and Businesses Impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic**

**Laguna Niguel, CA** – On January 19, 2021, the Laguna Niguel City Council reaffirmed its commitment to assisting residents and businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. As part of this commitment, the City Council unanimously adopted Resolution 2021-1350 and, further established an Economic Recovery/COVID-19 City Council Ad Hoc Committee.

Since the City's declaration of a local emergency on March 17, 2020, the Laguna Niguel City Council has been steadfast in helping to minimize the negative impacts that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on residents and businesses. The City remains committed to effectively responding to the pandemic and ensuring that the Laguna Niguel community is provided with the necessary resources.

Throughout 2020 and into 2021, the City has both individually, and through collaboration efforts with local partners, taken action to ensure that the best interest of all community members is at the forefront of every decision. In 2020, the City expanded its meal distribution program, transportation services, and wellness checks for its senior residents. Additionally, the City allocated three rounds of Community Development Block Grant funding totaling over \$550,000 to Family Assistance Ministries, South County Outreach, Age Well Senior Services, and Mercy House Living Centers to assist residents with rental assistance, utility costs, nutritional subsidies and homeless intervention. The City also launched an Economic Recovery Team, provided no-cost Temporary Use Permits to local businesses for the use of flexible outdoor space, and provided education and guidance to businesses through County, State, and Federal grant and loan assistance programs. Through a partnership with the County, the City was able to help more than 170 Laguna Niguel businesses receive a total of \$1,646,160 in grant funding, with more funding expected.

"As an elected official, a taxpayer, a small business owner, and a father, I am extremely mindful of the fact that the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the health, safety, and financial position of many of our Laguna Niguel residents and businesses. I truly believe that our residents are the heart and soul of our beautiful City and that local businesses are the backbone of our community. It is for this reason that my fellow City Council colleagues and I remain committed to assisting our residents and businesses during these critical times. We will continue to assist now and into the future until we can get past the pandemic," said Mayor Minagar.

Accompanying the Resolution is the further establishment of a City Council Economic Recovery/COVID-19 Ad Hoc Committee that will work with City staff and the business community to continue to ensure that the economic recovery in Laguna Niguel is strong and that the community is supported in the recovery process. Mayor Fred Minagar and Mayor Pro Tem Elaine Gennaway will serve as the City Council representatives on the Ad Hoc Committee. To read the full resolution, please visit [bit.ly/R-2021-1350](https://bit.ly/R-2021-1350).

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