

March 31, 2020

Two weeks ago we were briefed by Los Angeles County Director of Public Health, Dr. Barbara Ferrer, on the impact the coronavirus would have in the Los Angeles region. Dr. Ferrer explained that life as we know it would dramatically change, and foreshadowed the events that followed: social distancing, closure of schools, no gatherings outside of the home, and limited public engagement with the exception of first responders, health care professionals and other essential workers.

Dr. Ferrer also described the impact that this public health crisis will have on our health care system. At the height of the pandemic, hospitals will be overburdened with the most acute patients and health care professionals will face the greatest risk of exposure.

Dr. Ferrer made a call to action: work with the County to transition any large venue into a site that can quarantine those exposed to COVID-19 or who are tested positive but are not acute enough to require a hospital bed. Quarantine is critical to keeping all of us safe.

Following her appeal, member organizations of the Civic Alliance acted. For example, Fairplex, located in Pomona on the LA County fairgrounds, recently announced a partnership with the County to provide its 244-room Sheraton Hotel to the County to serve as a quarantine center for residents of Pomona and the San Gabriel Valley, particularly first responders and others who are highly vulnerable to exposure due to their work during this critical time. The County Department of Public Health will arrange temporary quarantine housing at the Hotel. The only individuals who are permitted to reside in these locations are: 1) individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 and are not seriously ill; or 2) individuals who show symptoms of COVID-19 (for example have a fever, cough, or difficulty breathing) and are waiting for their test results.

Fairplex also is opening up its Child Development Center childcare facility to essential workers – healthcare workers, first responders and grocery store staffers. As they work on the frontlines for us, we should do everything we can to support them. Through philanthropic efforts, Fairplex is offering child care at low - or no cost to essential workers.

These unprecedented times require decisive leadership and action. Dr. Ferrer made it clear: this is a matter of life and death. Every minute counts. We are concerned that there has been some criticism from a handful of elected officials and residents about these efforts. They are spreading misinformation by alleging that creating spaces to quarantine residents create "hotbeds" of the virus and place neighborhoods where they are located in greater danger of exposure. This is not true. The coronavirus does not discriminate. The impact is felt in every community and every city.

We must all do our part to make our spaces available to save lives. We call on all of us -- residents, elected officials and civic leaders -- to support these efforts and follow Dr. Ferrer's call to action. We must come together and support one another at this critical time.

Sincerely,

*Miguel A. Santana*

President & CEO, Fairplex\*

*George Kieffer*

Partner, Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP\*

*Fred Ali*

President & CEO, Weingart Foundation\*

*Bill Allen*

CEO, Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC)\*

*Raul Anaya*

President, Bank of America, Los Angeles\*

*Edward J. Avila*

President, Project Restore\*

*Kimberly Belshé*

Executive Director, First 5 LA\*

*Kathleen Brown*

Partner, Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP\*

*Elise Buik*

President & CEO, United Way of Greater Los Angeles\*

*Sean Burton*

Chief Executive Officer, CityView\*;  
President, Bd. of Airport Commissioners\*

*Geoffrey Cowan*

University Professor, University of Southern California\*

*John Emerson*

Vice Chairman, Capital Group International\*

*Kathay Feng*

Executive Director, California Common Cause\*

*Ronald R. Gastelum*

Water Conservation Partners\*

*Russell Goldsmith*

Chairman, City National Bank\*

*Wendy Greuel*

Former Los Angeles City Controller\*

*Antonia Hernandez*

President & CEO, California Community Foundation\*

*Mickey Kantor*

Partner, Mayer Brown LLP\*

*Stewart Kwok*

Founder, Asian Americans Advancing Justice-LA\*

*Michael Lawson*

President & CEO, Los Angeles Urban League\*

*Andy Lipkis*

Project Executive, Accelerating Climate Resilience\*

*Gerun Riley*

President, The Eli & Edythe Broad Foundation\*

*Maria Salinas*

President & CEO, Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce\*

*Robert Simonds*

Chairman, STX Entertainment\*

*Steve Soboroff*

Los Angeles Police Commission\*

*Matthew A. Toledo*

CEO, ProVisors; Publisher Emeritus, Los Angeles Business Journal\*

*Cindy Miscikowski*

Chief Executive, The Ring Group\*

*Robert K. Ross, M.D.*

President & CEO, The California Endowment\*

*John H. Semcken III*

Senior Vice President, Majestic Realty Co.\*

*Michele Siqueiros*

President, The Campaign for College Opportunity\*

*Gary Toebben*

Former President and CEO, Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce\*

*\*Titles and organizations listed for identification purposes only.*