

Pivotal Time in Fremont's History

The City of Fremont has faced a number of obstacles and unprecedented challenges this year, alongside the rest of the nation and the world.

The COVID-19 global pandemic compelled our local government to offer most services virtually for the safety of the community while continuing to operate on-the-ground essential services such as public safety, meals and hygiene facilities for vulnerable populations, and more.

In the midst of the global pandemic, cities in the United States including Fremont, experienced civil protests and unrest in response to the unjust killing of George Floyd by the Minneapolis Police Department. The Fremont Police Department acknowledged the anger and grief surrounding Floyd's tragic death and began an open community dialogue with the goal of establishing a shared vision of public safety that serves everyone equitably.

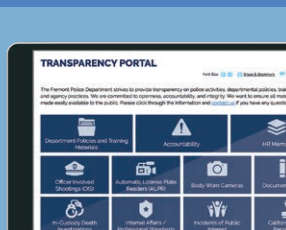
As the City continues to grow, learn, and lead, the following

"We will constantly look for ways to improve by critiquing critical incidents, evaluating policies and procedures and above all, continuing to train. Members of the Fremont Police Department deeply value the sanctity of life and strive to earn the trust of our community each day."

—Police Chief Kimberly Petersen

newsletter reflects the past, present and future actions taken in response to COVID-19 and the peaceful protests and community demands around policing and racial injustice. Our city is taking important steps during this pivotal time in history to ensure Fremont's success. Learn more about citywide community engagement initiatives currently underway and how you can get involved at www.fremontpolice.gov/EngageFremont.

ENGAGE FREMONT: COMMUNITY DIALOGUE REPORT





Letter from Fremont's City Manager

Since the beginning of the year, Fremont, much like the rest of the nation, has faced a number of issues that have deeply impacted our community, including the global COVID-19 pandemic, civil unrest incited by the murder of George Floyd, and economic uncertainty. We have been through a lot this year, yet together we are finding a path forward.

Just days after the City of Fremont declared a local state of emergency in response to COVID-19, new emergency ordinances and all the executive orders I initiated as your city manager were ultimately ratified and passed by the Fremont City Council and regulations were put into place to physically and financially protect Fremont residents. By embracing these directives, along with Shelter-in-Place, Fremont became a regional leader in this public health emergency.

Fremont was the first city in the Bay Area to issue a Face Covering Executive Order. We were also among the first Bay Area cities to open a drive-through testing center on April 3. From this site alone, more than 3,000 people have been tested for the virus.

I have had the honor of witnessing our community unite in support of each other, helping those most impacted during these challenging times.

This support, along with careful planning and proper allocation of resources, has allowed us to provide meals and hygienic services to our unhoused and senior residents. A wide range of meal delivery programs were implemented in partnership with the Senior Center, local organizations, and non-profit groups. At the time of print, over 20,000 meals have been prepared for the most vulnerable members of our community.

The City strategically managed economic relief efforts for our small business community as well. Federal grants from the government enabled us to set up the Small Business Relief Grant Program, and successful initiatives, such as Gift Fremont and Pop Up Patio drove sales for participating businesses, putting thousands of dollars back into the local economy. Additionally, the City moved City Council and Board and Commission meetings to a virtual platform and ensured public participation was available.

While the impacts of COVID-19 continue to be addressed on a city, state, and national level, other issues have taken precedence: police brutality and racial injustice. Much like the way we responded to COVID-19, the City of Fremont has positioned itself as a leader in progressive policing practices. In joint efforts with the Fremont Police Department, Fremont has opened up community dialogues and implemented new policies to guide police response. The recently launched Engage Fremont initiative is something I personally committed to and initiated along with Police Chief Kimberly Petersen. Additional policies are being developed as community priorities and next steps are identified.

Through current and future use of Town Hall discussions, community forums, surveys, and continued dialogues on policing and race, our City is well-positioned to establish common ground for the residents and police officers of Fremont.

We are proud to stand for change during this pivotal moment in our nation.

Early Response to Protests

The Fremont Police Department has been proactive in the response to the community's calls for additional social services as well as police accountability and transparency, beginning with Chief Kimberly Petersen's letter to the community. In late May, the Chief denounced the death of George Floyd, expressed grief for his family, and summarized the Department's current training and use of force policies.

Since that time, the Police Department has released a comprehensive look at its policies and how they align with the 8 Can't Wait campaign, including the suspension of the carotid restraint. To view the entire document, visit www.Fremontpolice.gov/wherewestand.

Following the letter and initial response, the City Manager initiated a series of public dialogues on policing and race to discuss and obtain feedback on what the future of policing looks like in Fremont. Pages 1-6 in this newsletter are focused on these efforts.



The City Council meets the first, second, and third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 3300 Capitol Ave.

Meetings are broadcast over Cable TV Channel 27 or webcast online at Fremont.gov/Webcasts.

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Vice Mayor Jenny Kassan
Councilmember Vinnie Bacon
Councilmember Raj Salwan
Councilmember Teresa Keng
Councilmember Rick Jones
Councilmember Yang Shao

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City Social Media

Follow the City and many of its departments on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, Nextdoor, and Nixle—we will keep you posted on everything from community events, new business openings, traffic updates, friendly tips, and other City-related information that may help you and your family. www.Fremont.gov/SocialMedia

Engage Fremont Drives Discussion on Policing and Race

This summer, the City of Fremont launched Engage Fremont, a new initiative designed to carry out the City's commitment to fostering an open dialogue with residents.

Phase one of Engage Fremont: Dialogues on Policing and Race was a community survey that gathered feedback from Fremont residents and business owners through the City's online forum, Fremont Open City Hall that was open from late June through early August. Phase two was the facilitation of six community dialogue groups by an external professional



facilitator that took place between July and August.

Phase three was a virtual public meeting on August 11 where the City's professional facilitator shared findings from the discussion groups and the online survey, elicited polled responses from the community, and City staff assessed suggested next steps, summarized below. The Police Department is currently reviewing their FY 2020/21 strategic goals to ensure alignment with community feedback.

Police Services: Funding, Restructuring and Enhancing

- **Recommendation #1:** Expand partnerships with social services agencies
- **Recommendation #2:** Evaluate hybrid models of sworn and non-sworn staff for non-emergency services and programs
- **Recommendation #3:** Work with the school district to reassess the School Resource Officer (SRO) program

Policing Transparency and Accountability

- **Recommendation #4:** Reduce Use of Force except when absolutely necessary in protection of life
- **Recommendation #5:** Ensure department transparency and officer accountability
- **Recommendation #6:** Prioritize de-escalation, crisis intervention, and implicit bias training
- **Recommendation #7:** Ensure a diverse workforce
- **Recommendation #8:** Provide officer health and wellness programs and services

Policing and Community Relations

- **Recommendation #9:** Clarify and showcase policies and programs
- **Recommendation #10:** Enhance community events and engagement

City staff will present a report outlining a comprehensive view of the policing and race issues at the regularly scheduled City Council meeting on October 13 at 7:00 p.m. Once published, the report will be posted online at www.Fremontpolice.gov/Engage.

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AnimalServices@fremont.gov
510-790-6630

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510-284-4030

City Clerk

cclerk@fremont.gov
510-284-4060

City Manager

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510-284-4000

Code Enforcement

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Economic Development

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510-284-4020

Engineering

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510-494-4700

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510-494-4800

Housing

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Human Resources

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Human Services

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510-574-2050

Maintenance Services

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Planning

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Police Department

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510-790-6800

Recreation Services

RegeRec@fremont.gov
510-494-4300

Transportation

traffic@fremont.gov
510-494-4745

Transparency Portal and Accountability Webpage

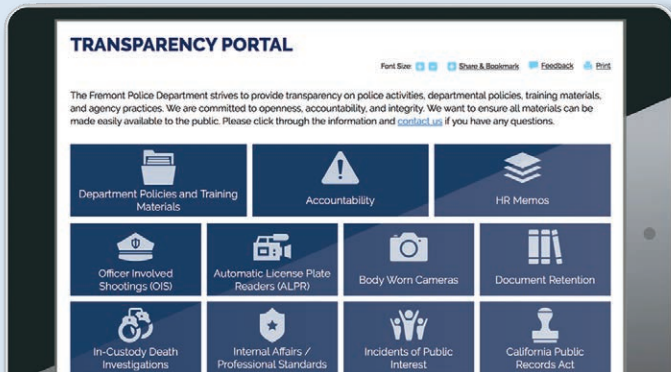
In 2018, the Fremont Police Department developed a Transparency Portal in a proactive effort to operate with openness, accountability, and integrity. The portal provides the public with direct access to police-related documents and procedures including officer involved shootings,

departmental policies, training materials, agency practices, and crime statistics.

Recently, the Transparency Portal has been updated with a new Accountability webpage to further increase transparency and accountability practices within the Police Department. The Police Department is committed to acting responsibly and addressing concerns around the City's policing tactics. This webpage includes information on records retention, community partnerships, Engage Fremont, FAQs about the Department's accountability, and more.

To access these resources, visit:

- **Transparency Portal:** www.FremontPolice.gov/Transparency
- **Accountability Webpage:** www.FremontPolice.gov/Accountability
- **FAQs Webpage:** www.FremontPolice.gov/AccountabilityFaqs



What is the **FPD Use of Force Policy?**

The Fremont Police Department use of force policy includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Establishes the duty to intercede
- Provides ultimate objective of avoiding or minimizing injury
- Lists at least 19 factors an officer must consider when using force
- Discourages shooting at a vehicle; only limited to situations where officers feel their life is in danger and no other means to move out of the way exist
- Requires that any officer using force must report to a supervisor as soon as possible
- Mandates that supervisors respond to the scene of every use of force
- Requires that medical attention is given and medical personnel treating suspects are notified that force was used

Each use of force incident is reviewed by both the Supervisor and a lieutenant with subject matter expertise. In addition to a formal assessment of each use of force incident, the Department maintains a database which tracks officer use of force and other data/reportable events. If a specific threshold is reached, a secondary comprehensive review of all the incidents is initiated.

Additionally, officer involved shooting incidents are reviewed and assessed by the Department's Internal Affairs Unit. In cases where the use of force is deadly, a parallel criminal investigation is conducted by the Alameda County District Attorney's Office. All records pertaining to officer involved shootings and incidents resulting in great bodily injury are subject to disclosure under the Public Records Act.

For the full-length use of force policy and officer involved shooting records, visit the Transparency Portal at www.FremontPolice.gov/Transparency.

Stop Data Collection and Reporting

The Racial and Identity Profiling Act of 2015 (RIPA) mandates state and local law enforcement agencies in California to collect perceived demographic and other detailed data for all pedestrian and traffic-related stops. This data, along with information on the officer who made the stop, is then reported annually to the California Attorney General's Office.

While the Fremont Police Department already reports the number and disposition of complaints made to the Department based on race or identity, stop data will begin to be collected in "Wave 4" of the State's data collection efforts. Wave 4 collection begins January 1, 2022 and the first report will be submitted to the State by April 1, 2023.

Police Reform Efforts



New Police Reform Policies

The City of Fremont and Police Department are closely tracking several legislative bills at the State and Federal level aimed at updating use of force procedures, addressing issues surrounding bias in policing, and increasing Department accountability and transparency.

The Fremont Police Department is also engaged with policy adoption at the County level, and has received an invitation to participate in the Racial Justice and Police Accountability Working Group, chaired by a member of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors.

New and updated policies for the City of Fremont are underway. So far, the Police Department has proposed and/or implemented the following at the time of publication:

ADOPTED

- ✓ A more restrictive pursuit policy
- ✓ Suspended use of the carotid control hold
- ✓ Further regulated the release of mugshots in an effort to reduce racial bias, except when there is a clear public safety need

IN PROGRESS

- Updating de-escalation tactics in the use of force policy and training in alignment with SB 230 legislative changes
- Extending the length of time the FPD keeps raw use of force data to meet Racial and Identity Profiling Act of 2015 (RIPA) requirements

Police Officer Training

The Fremont Police Department has incorporated more frequent training courses on racial profiling, cultural diversity, use of force, and de-escalation, exceeding the minimum recommended standards set forth by California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST). All are designed to eliminate bias and implicit bias, and teach responding officers to utilize tactics where physical force is not required.

The Department also ensures that police officers receive 24 hours or more of POST-qualifying training in the continued professional training category every two years. Training includes, but is not limited to, civil liability, critical thinking, ethics, case law, new technology, officer wellness, recent court decisions, and search and seizure.

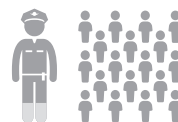
In addition, officers receive a minimum of 12 hours of training every two years in areas that fall within the Perishable Skills category of POST. This training includes arrest and control, drivers training, first aid, and tactical firearms.



The Fremont Police Department is authorized
199
sworn Officers



Population for Fremont is
234,220

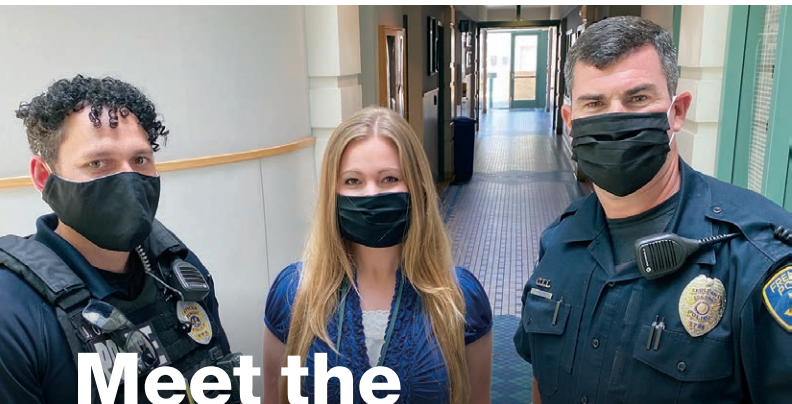


At full capacity, Fremont has
.849 Officers
per 1,000 residents



Nationwide, the average rate is **2.4** Officers per 1,000 inhabitants
For cities our size, the rate is **1.7** Officers per 1,000 inhabitants

Police Reform Efforts



Meet the FPD's MET Unit

Created in 2017, the Fremont Police Department Mobile Evaluation Team (MET) is a partnership between the Fremont Police Department and behavioral health providers from the City of Fremont's Human Services Department and Washington Hospital. This team oversees mental health programs for both police officers and community members alike to help meet demands for additional mental health services.

MET acts as a resource and response unit for community members, their caregivers, and loved ones struggling with homelessness or mental health issues. It pairs uniformed police officers with an assigned mental health clinician to ensure that they remain supported and are able to cope with the various situations that they encounter. As of August, the MET team is fully staffed and the Police Department is working with Human Services to explore expansion of the program.

Separately, the Fremont Police Department has upheld its commitment to Crisis Intervention Training (C.I.T.) for police officers and dispatchers. The training is designed to help officers respond more effectively to mental health calls from Fremont residents. As of July 2020, approximately a third of Fremont Police officers and dispatchers have attended the training.

CRISIS RESPONSE RESOURCES

- **Crisis response, information, and referral for anyone in Alameda County:**
English Language **1-800-491-9099**
Spanish Language **510-881-5921**
Deaf and Hard of Hearing video phone **510-984-1654**
- Family Education and Resource Center (FERC): www.ferc.org
- Nationwide Hotline: **1-800-273-TALK (8255)**
- National Alliance on Mental Illness: www.nami.org
- Crisis Support Information: www.acbhcs.org
- Alameda County Behavioral Health: www.acbhcs.org
- Resources in the City of Fremont for the Homeless/Hungry: www.Fremont.gov/HumanServices



Where We Stand— #8CantWait

Learn how the Fremont Police Department stands in alignment with the spirit of this movement by visiting www.FremontPolice.gov/WhereWeStand.

Our Police Department and Community Unite in Citywide Programs

The Fremont Police Department has developed and implemented several community partnerships over the last several decades that enable local law enforcement agencies, community groups, youth, nonprofits, businesses, and residents to embrace public safety as a shared responsibility.

The resulting programs and resources, including Building Bridges, Summer Youth Academy, and the Explorer program, provide an avenue for police officers to engage the community and build long-lasting partnerships with the residents of Fremont that are backed by trust.

In addition to these efforts, the Chief of Police has a long-established community advisory group representing a diverse cross-section of community



perspectives. The group advises the Chief on policy, strategy, and direction for the Department.

COVID-19 Updates

Fremont Acts to **Protect Residents from COVID-19**

Just days after Fremont ratified its Declaration of Local Emergency to align with the March 16, 2020 Shelter In Place Order issued by the Alameda County Public Health Officer, the City implemented a number of new emergency ordinances and regulations designed to protect the physical and financial well-being of Fremont residents.

As part of this effort, Fremont was the first City in the Bay Area to issue a Face Covering Executive Order to inhibit the spread of the virus within

the community. A day later, Alameda County also issued a Face Covering Executive Order, which the City is now upholding.

In addition, a temporary Eviction Moratorium was imposed on residential rental units and small-scale commercial spaces where tenants were unable to pay rent due to loss of income as a result of the pandemic.

Finally, Anti-Gouging, Anti-Hoarding and Anti-Grouping Ordinances were imposed as well. The Anti-Gouging

Ordinance ensures that goods and services are not subject to a price increase of more than 10%, while the Anti-Hoarding and Anti-Grouping Ordinance restricts the act of hoarding essential goods and requires social distancing practices as directed by the County's Shelter in Place Order.

For more information on essential services and updates on how the City of Fremont is monitoring COVID-19, visit our Coronavirus webpage at www.Fremont.gov/Coronavirus.

Local COVID-19 Testing Sites

The City of Fremont became one of the first Bay Area cities to open a drive-through COVID-19 testing center at the Fremont Fire Tactical Training Center on April 3. This center provided an opportunity for people who were sick, first responders, and front-line healthcare personnel with recent suspected exposures to the virus to be tested for free.

Additionally, less than a week later, in partnership with Bay Area Community Health (formerly the Tri-City Health Center), free, walk-up tests were made available by appointment at 39500 Liberty St.

After May 3, the City transitioned to mobile testing. The mobile testing center, in coordination with the Alameda County Public Health Department, specifically focused on providing tests to high-risk and vulnerable



populations such as those experiencing homelessness, and nursing home, assisted living and long-term care facility employees.

All COVID-19 testing was backed by a \$2 million investment from the City. The City has applied for and will receive partial reimbursement through the County of Alameda, amounting to \$625,000.

For a list of free COVID-19 testing sites within Alameda County, visit <https://covid-19.acgov.org/testing.page>.

Grand Totals for the Drive-Thru, Drop-In and Mobile Testing (April - June 2020):

4,510
total tested



184
total confirmed cases



2,152
essential service workers tested



2020 TIMELINE **FREMONT COVID-19 MILESTONE RESPONSE**

March 3
Activated the Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

March 13
Declared local state of emergency

March 27
Declared Eviction Moratorium and Anti-Gouging, Anti-Hoarding & Anti-Grouping Ordinances

April 3
Opened one of the Bay Area's first drive-through COVID-19 testing centers

April 16
First Bay Area city to issue a Face Covering Executive Order

May 15
Approved COVID-19 aid package for Fremont renters and small businesses

May 21
Launched online gift card program Gift Fremont to benefit small businesses

June 15
Launched outdoor permitting program Pop Up Patio

July 23
Established temporary limit of 15% on fees charged by third-party food delivery companies

August 26
Expanded outdoor permitting program Pop Up Patio to include Personal Services

Vulnerable Populations

Hygiene Stations

Installed Throughout Fremont

As part of an ongoing initiative to support our unhoused residents, the City secured funding to set up and implement hygiene infrastructure throughout Fremont. Temporary sanitation stations that have handwashing and toilet units have been installed at the following locations:

- Fremont Main Library
- Isherwood/Old Alameda Creek
- Christy/Albrae, Sunrise Village
- Ardenwood Overpass near Highway 84
- Washington Blvd. Overpass
- Auto Mall Pkwy. Overpass near Home Depot

Fremont's Mobile Hygiene Service, "Clean Start" provided more than 2,000 showers and over 800 loads of laundry for homeless residents in Fremont and Newark, with great collaboration from volunteers at the sites hosting assistance. Two locations in Union City have now been added to the mobile service.

For more information on the City's hygiene infrastructure programs, visit www.Fremont.gov/CleanStart.

From
March 17 to
August 31,
Clean Start
provided:


more than
2,000
showers


more than
800
laundry loads

Housing Navigation Center Opens

Throughout the pandemic, construction of essential infrastructure has been permitted as long as social distancing requirements are followed. This includes work related to roads, public transportation, buildings, and underground utilities (water, sewer, gas, and communications), as well as the construction of affordable housing.

To this end, construction of the Housing Navigation Center (HNC) continued throughout the summer. We celebrated its grand opening on August 31 and began the process of welcoming residents. View our event video at www.Fremont.gov/HNCopening. The HNC is part of a strategic plan to address the growing homelessness crisis and will house 25 homeless adults from our community, with adherence to social distancing requirements, for up to 6 months while they receive housing navigation services to find stable, permanent housing.



Providing Meals in Times of Crisis

Throughout the public health crisis, it has been critical for the City of Fremont to ensure that its most at-risk residents have access to food while upholding Shelter in Place Orders. For unhoused and senior members of the Fremont community, the City implemented a wide range of meal delivery programs.



The City transformed its relationship with Fremont-based autonomous driving startup Pony.ai to deliver more than 5,200 meals prepared by staff at the Senior Center to vulnerable neighbors housed at the Islander Motel.

In partnership with the Daily Bowl, a local food recovery non-profit, the City of Fremont distributed 1,600 meals left over from Kaiser Health System to homeless encampments throughout the city.

A Senior Center chef was deployed to Sunrise Village homeless shelter to help keep its food service running smoothly after volunteers began to shelter in place. Over 800 meals were distributed.

By establishing partnerships with the Senior Center, the Fremont Family Resource Center, Fremont Unified School District, and several local nonprofit and faith-based organizations, more than 5,300 Grab & Go food boxes have been distributed to those experiencing food insecurities.

To further service the community, those 55 and over have access to a frozen meals program at the Senior Center at a discounted rate – five frozen meals for \$20. The preordered meals are picked up through a contactless, drive-up process.

Through all initiatives, Senior Center Chefs have prepared over 20,000 meals to ensure that the most vulnerable members of our community remain safe and cared for during this time.

Development/Construction Services

Community Development Modifies Services to Continue to Serve Fremont

In spite of the challenges social distancing requirements have brought, the City's Community Development Department has risen to the occasion to revamp their construction and development services to continue to safely assist the public.

The City is now accepting online permit requests for new planning, building/fire, and engineering permits through the City's Citizen Access portal at www.Fremont.gov/CitizenAccess.

Every step of the permit process can be completed using Citizen Access including payment of fees, resubmittal of plans and documents, and scheduling of building inspections. For more information, visit www.Fremont.gov/OnlinePermits.

To help construction projects move forward, Community Development staff successfully re-opened the City's Development Services Center to the public on May 11. While services and staffing are limited, the public is still able to obtain permits, project plans, and technical assistance. Safety protocols have been put into place including face covering requirements, a temperature check station, a health screening form, barriers, social distancing decals, and additional cleanings. For more information about the Development Services Center, visit www.Fremont.gov/DSC.

Construction of Affordable Housing Moves Forward

The City of Fremont has prioritized affordable housing as being critical to our community's housing needs.

To meet this need, the City is working with affordable housing developers to ensure construction continues during the pandemic. A total of 603 units are under construction, with over 500 of these units scheduled to be completed by the end of 2020. To receive information when affordable housing units become available, please sign up for the City's Interest List at www.Fremont.gov/AffordableHousingInterest.



Public Works Construction Services Continue During COVID-19

The City's Public Works Construction Section continued its duties as regularly scheduled throughout the public health crisis.

Following social distancing guidelines and equipped with face masks, gloves and good hygiene habits, the Public Works Construction inspection team has supported various infrastructure projects related to pavement maintenance, sidewalk repairs, bikeway improvements, traffic signals, as well as new street improvements associated with private development

projects. Progress continued on the City's major construction projects, including the Housing Navigation Center, Warm Springs BART West Access Bridge, the new Downtown Event Center (pictured below), and the installation of radar speed feedback signs.

In addition, Public Works Engineering staff has continued work on planning, design, and bidding of various projects for improving Fremont's infrastructure, along with keeping planned private development projects on track.



Our **Businesses**

Economic Development's **Proactive Response to COVID-19**

The City's Economic Development Department sprung into immediate action after the Shelter in Place Order for Alameda County went into effect in March with the creation of a Small Business Task Force. This group included the Fremont Chamber of Commerce as well as business district representatives.

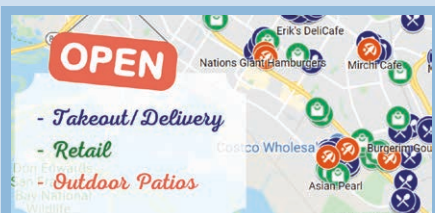
In the early days, getting information to local businesses on financial aid, technical assistance, and other resources was key. This was done by setting up a business assistance hotline at (510) 284-4020 for specific inquiries related to how to mitigate COVID-19's impacts, as well as creating a COVID-19 Business Resources page that was updated regularly and in a timely

manner with new information.

Another important part of the communications plan was ensuring that the community knew which businesses were open. The Small Business Task Force distributed signs for storefronts in over 300 local businesses to catch the attention of foot traffic. Economic Development also developed an online, open-sourced interactive map to help residents find local restaurants and coffee shops offering take-out and delivery options during Shelter in Place.

In addition, the City of Fremont waived penalties and interest on late payments for business tax certificate renewals to ease some of the burden on local businesses that most need the support during this difficult time.

For the most recent info on COVID-19 business resources, visit www.Fremont.gov/CovidBizResources.



Fast-Tracking Permitting to Combat COVID-19

As researchers and biotech organizations around the country responded to COVID-19, so did a number of Fremont-based businesses that shifted regular operations in order to meet nationwide needs for medical supplies, including BioGenex, Biolytic Lab Performance, Evolve Manufacturing Technologies, PrinterPrezz, Steri-Tek, and Thermo Fisher Scientific.

To support these efforts, the City fast-tracked its emergency zoning permit approval process so that these biotech businesses looking to manufacture medical equipment, including ventilators, test kits, and masks, could do so in less than 24 hours. BioGenex and Kaiser applied through this expedited process.

The sudden boost in production brought over 300 jobs to Fremont. A hiring event was quickly developed in partnership by the Economic Development Department and Ohlone College through a virtual career fair that showcased open job positions at manufacturing and biotech companies Enovix Corporation and Evolve to help these companies meet their new workforce needs.

Local Small Business and Rent Relief **Grant Programs**

To offer aid to those most impacted by the pandemic, the Fremont City Council approved an \$800,000 federal grant package to provide economic relief to local small businesses and renters.

The Fremont Cares Rent Relief program has provided \$400,000 of rental assistance to eligible households who were unable to pay their rent due to a COVID 19-related job loss or loss of income. The Small Business Relief Grant Program has provided aid to small businesses in Fremont who have suffered financial impact from COVID-19 pandemic responses in \$5,000 and \$10,000 grants, based on the number of employees on payroll.

Funding for this relief package comes from the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act as part of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program.

More than 300 applications were received and over 60 Fremont-based small businesses were funded with this program. Additionally, over 300 applications were submitted from renters for the rent relief grant program, with 95 families granted funds to pay up to three months of unpaid rent dating back to as early as March 17, 2020, the date of the original Shelter in Place order. Currently, all grant funding has been used toward these programs.



Make a Difference. **Gift Fremont**

Furthering efforts to support our small business community, the City of Fremont introduced Gift Fremont. This program, launched in partnership with eGift card platform Yiftee and the Fremont Chamber of Commerce, has already helped many small businesses find additional economic relief thanks to community members buying online gift cards to local small, independent businesses.



Participating in Gift Fremont is easy and – thanks to contributions from the City and a number of corporate donors – comes with an added bonus. Visit www.GiftFremont.com to purchase a gift card valued at \$20 or more to receive a \$5 bonus, or a gift card valued

at \$40 or more to receive a \$15 bonus.

Since its May 21 launch, the public has purchased over 800 gift cards, resulting in an infusion of over \$23,000 directly to local small businesses. The program has already seen a 300% return on initial investment and with additional private donations received, the program is now expected to contribute approximately \$75,000 back into our local small business community.

For those interested in supporting our small businesses, contact the City at econdev@fremont.gov or 510-284-4020.

For more information about this program, visit www.Fremont.gov/GiftFremont.

New Pop Up Patio Program

Small businesses in Fremont are now able to apply to a unique new pilot program called Pop Up Patio that enables restaurants, retailers, and personal service businesses to serve customers outdoors, using adjacent public spaces to uphold social distancing guidelines. The City is processing applications so that such businesses can open for outdoor operation.



Pop Up Patio was initiated by the City to strengthen the local economy from the impacts of COVID-19 by providing the small business community with a much-needed revenue stream in light of restricted indoor operations defined by the County.

For more information visit www.Fremont.gov/PopUpPatio.

FY 2020/21: A CONSERVATIVE APPROACH

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, its impact to both the global economy and at the local level must be considered as governments plan financial budgets for the coming fiscal year.

For the fiscal year that ended on June 30, 2020, our City has estimated that COVID-19 cost the City General Fund \$10 million in revenue, primarily in sales tax and hotel tax. Factoring in a post-recovery economic slowdown, General

Fund revenues for the current fiscal year are estimated to fall \$12 million below the level projected prior to the pandemic.

The City Council's decision to increase reserves last year has allowed Fremont to absorb the initial impact of the revenue loss without laying off staff or severely curtailing services as some other cities have been forced to do.

To balance the current year budget, the

City will continue a hiring freeze that was implemented during the early stages of the pandemic, decrease overtime expenditures, cut allocations for training, supplies and equipment, and contractual services, reduce or suspend contributions to the risk management, vehicle replacement, and information technology internal service funds, and suspend transfers to the Capital Improvement Fund for streets, parks, and building maintenance.

City of Fremont

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RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER

Be Prepared—Sign Up for Notification Systems and Develop a Plan

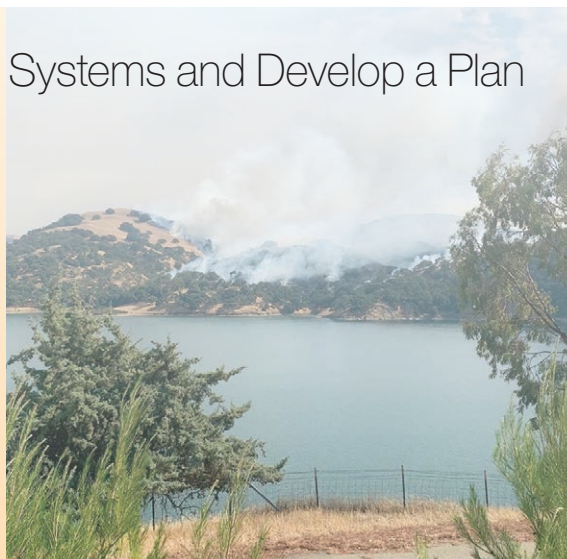
Throughout the past couple of months, wildfires have destroyed and devastated many communities throughout the Bay Area and Santa Cruz. The SCU Lightning Complex, with fires across seven counties, including Alameda County, impacted the City of Fremont from mid- to late-August. Evacuation Warnings were issued for parts of our community beginning August 17, then lifted August 25 once deemed safe. City of Fremont employees worked tirelessly on evacuation planning to ensure the community's safety had an evacuation order been issued. The City appreciates the community's support and doing your part to stay safe throughout the SCU Lightning Complex Fire in our area.

It's time now to pause and ask yourself, are you and your family prepared for the next wildfire or natural disaster? The Fremont Fire and Police Departments are encouraging community members to sign up for two notification systems that will enable you to receive information in the event of an emergency in Fremont. During emergencies, accurate and verified information provided by a trusted source is critical for everyone.

NIXLE - Receive text message alerts with information on critical incidents, road closures, and severe traffic. Text your Fremont ZIP code to 888777 to sign up. The system is free (standard text message rates apply) and provides a quick, efficient, and secure way to receive relevant and critical information. Or sign up online at www.Nixle.com for community messages and email notifications.

AC ALERT - Sign up for Alameda County's AC Alert System, which has the ability to notify subscribers with critical information in the event of an emergency at any time of the day or evening. AC Alert is a unified system for Alameda County residents, businesses, and visitors, and works in partnership with Alameda County agencies and its 14 cities, which includes City of Fremont. Sign up at www.acalert.org.

Residents or businesses in an evacuation zone would be alerted through these services, as well as public safety officials physically driving through the area.



Be Ready!

In addition to signing up for these notification systems, here are three simple steps to follow suggested by the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Ready Campaign:

- 1. Develop a family emergency plan**
- 2. Prepare an emergency supply kit**
- 3. Be informed about the different types of emergencies that could occur in your area and know how to respond appropriately**

For more on how to prepare your family, home, and business for all types of emergencies, please visit www.Ready.gov or call (800) BE-READY or TTY (800) 462-7585. To learn how to prepare your home and loved ones for the next wildfire, please visit www.readyforwildfire.org.