



OFFICE OF THE AGENCY DIRECTOR
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TEL (510) 618-3452
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July 9, 2020

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County Administration Building
1221 Oak Street
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Board Members:

SUBJECT: APPROVE A LETTER OF SUPPORT FROM THE ALAMEDA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS FOR THE HEALTH CARE SERVICES AGENCY'S COUNTY COVID-19 VARIANCE ATTESTATION

RECOMMENDATIONS

Approve a Letter of Support for attestation from the Alameda County Board of Supervisors for the Health Care Services Agency's County COVID-19 Variance Attestation

SUMMARY/DISCUSSION

In December 2019, an outbreak of a respiratory illness due to a novel coronavirus (a disease known as 2019 Novel Coronavirus or COVID-19) was first identified in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China. Since then, the outbreak has spread to more than 210 countries and territories. As of June 15, 2020, the number of reported COVID-19 cases has risen to more than 7.8 million confirmed cases and resulted in more than 431,500 deaths worldwide. The United States has reported more than 2 million confirmed cases and 115,000 deaths with California reporting more than 151,000 cases and 5,089 deaths.

On March 4, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom proclaimed a state of emergency within the State due to the threat posed by the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). On March 10, 2020, your Board adopted the resolution ratifying the declaration of a local health emergency by the County Health Officer (File No. 30453; Item No. 1.1). On March 16, County Public Health Officer issued a Shelter in Place Order directing all individuals to shelter in their place of residence except for certain essential services. The Shelter in Place Order has been extended and revised to allow incremental reopening of the economy, including the most recent iteration issued on June 18, 2020. The orders aim to reduce community transmission, infection, and mortality rates by limiting person-to-person interaction.

As one of the first counties in the country to issue Shelter in Place Health Officer orders, Alameda County swift and decisive actions prevented thousands of COVID-19 cases and hundreds of deaths. A study by the Big Cities Health Coalition and Drexel University estimates that our Health Officer Orders have saved more than 7,000 lives and prevented 70,000 hospitalizations across Alameda County.

The Alameda County Health Officer, in alignment with the Health Care Services Agency, intends to submit an attestation to the California Department of Public Health for a county variance related to the California COVID-19 Resilience Roadmap. Alameda County's COVID-19 Variance Attestation is a broad look at the COVID-19 response thus far. It demonstrates that Alameda County meets the State's benchmarks and plans for: epidemiologic stability of COVID-19, protection of Stage 1 essential workers, testing capacity,

containment capacity, hospital capacity, vulnerable populations, sectors and timelines, triggers for adjusting modification, and the plan for moving through Stage 2. The attestation requires a letter of support from your Board and a draft letter of support is attached.

While our county meets the State's attestation benchmarks and required plans, we are wary of reopening too quickly. To date our reopening decisions have been guided by progress on our five indicators: flat or decreasing rates of new cases and hospitalizations, and sufficiency of hospital and surge capacity, testing capacity, disease containment, and PPE supply. With Variance Attestation, we will also monitor the indicators used by the State.

However, we are deeply concerned about the spike in cases that is being seen around the State, the disproportionate impact on communities of color, and the local impact of the outbreak at San Quentin State Prison. Our pursuit of variance attestation is to ensure the ability to make local decisions that balance risk and protection of our residents with the ability to move forward to open additional sectors of our economy only when the data indicate it is safe to do so. We have relied on our data to help inform these decisions and will continue to move at a pace that balances risk, safety and socioeconomic needs of our communities.

FINANCING

This recommendation has no fiscal implications and will have no impact on Net County Costs.

VISION 2026 GOAL

Pursuing the State of California COVID-19 county variance attestation requirements to continue the reopening process meets the 10X goal pathway of **Healthcare for All** in support of our shared visions of a **Thriving & Resilient Population, Safe & Livable Communities** and **Healthy Environment**.

Sincerely,



Colleen Chawla, Director
Health Care Services Agency

July 14, 2020

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of the State of California
1303-10th Street, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dr. Sonia Y. Angell
State Public Health Officer and Director California Department of Public Health
P.O. Box 997377, MS 0500
Sacramento, CA 95899-7377

Re: Letter of Support for Alameda County's COVID-19 Variance Attestation

Dear Governor Newsom and Dr. Angell:

The Alameda County Board of Supervisors thanks you for your leadership and support during the COVID-19 pandemic. This 100-year event will have ripple effects on our residents and economy for years to come, and we appreciate your swift and steady management of this slow motion disaster.

Alameda County was among the first counties in the country to issue Health Officer Orders to shelter in place, and this early action is estimated to have saved more than 7,000 lives and prevented 70,000 hospitalizations in our county. We are proud of this achievement and have taken a cautious and measured approach to reopening our economy, balancing COVID-19 risks alongside the health, safety, and socioeconomic needs of our communities.

The Alameda County Health Care Services Agency's Variance Attestation demonstrates the breadth of our COVID-19 response, which has four goals: prevent and control the spread of COVID-19; find, test and isolate cases and their contacts to prevent further spread; support care for COVID-19 patients; and coordinate an effective response. Racial and cultural diversity is an integral characteristic of our county, and community engagement and equity principles are infused throughout our response in an effort to mitigate the disproportionate effects of this pandemic on communities of color.

Alameda County's Board of Supervisors, Health Officer, and Health Care Services Agency are aligned in the pursuit of the Variance Attestation with caution and reservation. While our county is proceeding with a Variance Attestation application, we are wary of reopening too quickly. To date our reopening decisions have been guided by progress on our five indicators: flat or decreasing rates of new cases and hospitalizations, and sufficiency of hospital and surge capacity, testing capacity, disease containment, and PPE supply. With Variance Attestation, we will also monitor the indicators used by the State.

However, we are deeply concerned about the spike in cases that is being seen around the State, the disproportionate impact on communities of color, and the local impact of the outbreak at San Quentin State Prison. Our support of variance attestation is to ensure the ability to make local decisions that balance risk and protection of our residents with the ability to move forward to open additional sectors of our economy only when the data indicate it is safe to do so.

Per your public assurances that counties retain local control over the pace and cadence of their reopening plans, we anticipate that we will continue to move carefully and deliberately. We look forward to continued partnership and collaboration with the State to safely get our residents back to work and our children back to school.

Sincerely,
Alameda County Board of Supervisors



July 13, 2020

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
1221 Oak Street
Oakland, CA 94612

Sent via Email

Dear Honorable Board of Supervisors:

At your meeting tomorrow, July 14, you are going to consider approving a letter of support for the Alameda County Health Care Services Agency's County COVID-19 Variance Attestation. On behalf of the Pleasanton community, we respectfully and ardently request that you offer your full support and issue the letter as drafted to Governor Newsom and Dr. Angell.

We acknowledge that Alameda County has moved judiciously in relaxing restrictions and has demonstrated a cautious and measured approach in its response to COVID-19. Over the past several months, we have built a productive relationship with Alameda County Health Care Services Agency staff and sincerely appreciate their prioritization of the health and safety of our shared residents and businesses as they make decisions.

But we must also strive to find a balance that supports the socioeconomic needs of our cities. Pleasanton is home to more than 4,000 businesses, some of which have shown they can safely re-open and most of which still need to be allowed to do so to remain in operation. As the response to COVID-19 extends into the coming months we increasingly find it difficult to effectively enforce the discrepancy in restrictions, and compliance will become an even more significant challenge. The variance attestation will not only help to align county and state guidelines but will also create much-needed consistency.

Your support for an Alameda County variance attestation is a critical step in the process of our recovery. Thank you for your continued work to support the residents and businesses of Alameda County.

Sincerely,

Jerry T. Thorne, Mayor

DocuSigned by:
Nelson Fialho
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Nelson Fialho, City Manager

cc via email:

- Dr. Nicholas Moss, Alameda County Public Health Officer (Interim)
- Colleen Chawla, Alameda County Health Services Director
- Pleasanton City Council

P.O. Box 520, Pleasanton, CA 94566-0802

123 Main Street

City Manager
(925) 931-5002
Fax: 931-5482

City Attorney
(925) 931-5015
Fax: 931-5482

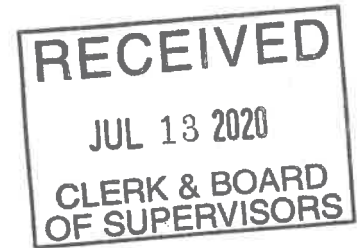
Economic Development
(925) 931-5038
Fax: 931-5485

City Clerk
(925) 931-5027
Fax: 931-5492

7/14/20 Agenda
14.1

Campbell-Belton, Anika, CBS

From: Aneri Pradhan <aneri.pradhan@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 12, 2020 12:31 PM
To: Clerk of the Board
Subject: Agenda item 14.1



Dear Alameda County Board of Supervisors,

My name is Aneri Pradhan and I am a parent and resident at 1409 Wood St, Oakland, CA 94607. My comment is in support of a variance from the state that would give the county flexibility to allow activities that health officials determine to be lower risk (agenda item 14.1).

I feel frustrated that we moved to Oakland to have access to attractions like Fairyland and Oakland zoo, only to have them potentially shut down forever due to overly zealous restrictions by Alameda County. Studies have shown that outdoor transmission of the virus are very rare (and that the protests for Black Lives Matter did not increase infections) and the county is now being too aggressive in forcing outdoor attractions to lay off hundreds of workers with families having no outlets for their kids to learn outside of the home. We should all be wearing masks and staying 6 ft apart and both parks have said they will limit attendance and enforce health guidelines. I think the loss of these attractions for Alameda County far outweigh the minuscule risks of outdoor transmission. Please reopen these parks now and ask for the variance from the state.

Thanks,

Aneri Pradhan
Concerned citizen of Oakland



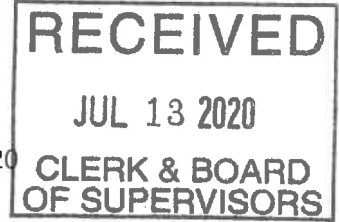
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7/14/20 Agenda

#14.1

Campbell-Belton, Anika, CBS

From: Jean Josey <Jean.Josey@dublin.ca.gov>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 11:59 AM
To: Clerk of the Board
Cc: Linda Smith; Colleen Tribby; Chawla, Colleen, HCSA
Subject: Written Comment on Item 14.1, BOS Meeting July 14th, 2020



Dear President Valle, Vice President Carson, and Supervisors,

Thank you for all that you are doing for our residents, always, but particularly during these historic times. I am writing today to urge you to please approve Director Chawla’s request for a letter of support to the State for the Health Care Services Agency’s County COVID-19 Variance Attestation. This variance is necessary so that our excellent Health Care Services Agency can continue to make the best decisions for our residents and businesses. It is simply a matter of local control and in no way means we need to accelerate the pace of reopening. Two lines of Director Chawla’s recommendation summary bear highlighting for your consideration in supporting her recommendations. The first is that “...our county meets the State’s attestation benchmarks and required plans...” This should be all we need to know to support our Health Department in their pursuit of this Variance. Local control should be the aim here so that we can avoid the types of administrative snafus we saw this weekend with outdoor dining. If we qualify for the variance, we should seek it to give our Health Department every tool at their disposal to keep our residence safe and our businesses (and The Oakland Zoo) afloat. The second point is that “This recommendation has no fiscal implications and will have no impact on Net County Costs.” With no associated costs, and no burden to move faster or slower than our Health Officers deem necessary given the conditions on the ground in our County, there seems to be no downside to requesting the variance.

Please support Director Chawla’s request for a letter of support to the State for the Health Care Services Agency’s County COVID-19 Variance Attestation.

Sincerely,
Jean Josey



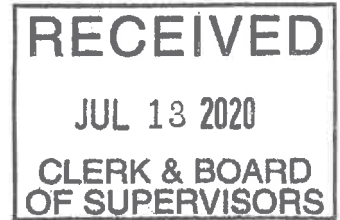
Jean Josey
Councilmember
City of Dublin
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Mission Statement: *The City of Dublin promotes and supports a high quality of life, ensures a safe and secure environment, and fosters new opportunities.*

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7/14/20 Agenda
14.1

Jon Salmon
3263 Encinal Avenue
Alameda, California 94501
jon@salmon.org



July 11, 2020

Wilma Chan
District 3 Supervisor
Alameda County Board of Supervisors
1221 Oak Street, Suite 536
Oakland, California 94612
wilma.chan@acgov.org

Kimi Watkins-Tartt, Director
Erica Pan, Health Officer
Alameda County Public Health Department
1000 Broadway Suite 500
Oakland, CA 94607
kimi.watkins-tartt@acgov.org
erica.pan@acgov.org
Covid19compliance@acgov.org
nCoV@acgov.org
PublicInformationOffice@acgov.org

Re: Outdoor Dining—Failure to Obtain Variance

Dear Ms. Chan, Ms. Watkins-Tartt, and Ms. Pan:

I am extremely disturbed by the circumstances surrounding the County's abrupt announcement last night suspending outdoor dining. Despite the County's attempt to position itself as a victim of arbitrary and evolving State regulations and enforcement, I can only conclude it is the County's own negligence and poor decision-making which has placed thousands of restaurant owners and employees into this entirely avoidable predicament.

This new shutdown is the result of the County's inexplicable failure to apply for a variance from the State. It was clear two months ago the County would need a variance before reopening any businesses not on the statewide approved list. The State has never given statewide approval to outdoor dining or any other kind of sit-down dining. Instead, the State has delegated such reopening decisions to counties which have obtained the variance required to make such decisions locally. Alameda County's failure to even apply for a variance stands out among California counties, virtually all of whom realized the

value of securing local control over reopening. As a result, this County is almost uniquely powerless to make reopening decisions locally, and in fact *never had authority* to reopen outdoor dining. This embarrassing and damaging outcome was entirely avoidable. Had the County exercised reasonable diligence, it would have understood the need for a variance and obtained one before the situation reached this critical point. Unfortunately, at this point it is the restaurant employees and owners who will suffer needlessly.

I am dismayed by the County's two misleading press releases on this subject which attempt to redirect blame to a July 9 State guidance document. The County implies the July 9 guidance somehow imposed a brand-new prohibition on outdoor dining in non-variance counties. Of course, the State did no such thing. All along, the County simply lacked authority under the applicable State public health orders to permit outdoor dining. One would expect more transparency and accountability from County officials.

I understand the Board of Supervisors will consider correcting this oversight on Tuesday. I strongly encourage the County to obtain a variance as soon as possible to empower it to make local, health-based decisions in the best interest of County residents. I do not own or work at a restaurant, but I am sure those who do will seek to hold the County accountable for this fiasco.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jon Salmon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jon" being more prominent than the last name "Salmon".

Jon Salmon