

CITY OF GUSTINE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City of Gustine Assists with Delivery of Food and Prescriptions to Residents

Gustine, CA, March 23, 2020—The City of Gustine is taking steps to help residents do their part to stay at home during the COVID-19 stay-at-home order. Beginning today, the City will assist local businesses with delivery of restaurant orders and pharmacy prescriptions free of charge.

“Our citizens have done an outstanding job so far in honoring the Governor’s directive and we want to assist them in doing so as we can,” City Manager Doug Dunford said.

Dunford said the Council and staff recognizes that small businesses are essential to the community and that restaurants serve a vital function to the community, especially at a time like this.

He said that any restaurant already offering delivery may continue that service and stressed that the City will serve as a backup. Deliveries are limited to those living in the City limits of Gustine and restaurants based in the City of Gustine. The City will offer assistance from 10am to 2pm and from 4pm to 8pm, Monday through Friday. A list of available restaurants is available on the City of Gustine website at www.cityofgustine.com.

He noted that many of the restaurants in Gustine have fewer staff than those in larger cities and face additional challenges when trying to staff up or shift workers into delivery roles, including having sufficient vehicles to deliver.

“They continue to work to feed our residents through this and we want to have their backs while also helping our residents,” Dunford said.

In order to use the service, residents will place orders with the participating restaurant either over the phone or on the internet and pay for the order one of those two ways. The restaurant will then contact the City when they need the assistance to fulfill deliveries.

“No money will change hands during the delivery and there will be no contact between those delivering and residents placing the order,” Dunford said.

Those delivering will utilize precautions including gloves and will leave orders on the doorstep. They will alert residents via doorbell or knock, keep a safe distance and visually confirm that residents have come out to pick up the food.

Dunford said that the City is utilizing personnel affiliated with the Police Department to fulfill the requests, including volunteers and explorers.

Police Chief Ruben Chavez said that the Department is scheduling officers and volunteers in a manner that ensures that regular officer patrols continue during deliveries in this program.

“I want to stress that we will not be taking officers off the street to do this,” Chavez stated. “Public safety remains our top priority and we will have officers to respond to patrol needs at all times.”

City staff stress that the goal of the program is to encourage residents to stay home while helping local restaurants to remain open and in business during a very difficult time.

“During these unprecedented times we understand that sometimes the definition of protect and serve takes on an enhanced meaning,” Chavez said. “We are taking this step because we recognize that.”

The Police Department encourages anyone interested in volunteering to help in any way with the delivery service, or any other need during this time, to email Lieutenant Sammy Joseph at SJoseph@gustinepolice.com.