



## PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

### **LA CENTER, UNDER AN EMERGENCY DECLARATION, TAKES STEPS TO ENSURE THE CONTINUATION OF CITY COUNCIL BUSINESS**

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**LA CENTER, WA, March 19, 2020** – City Staff have been following the guidance issued by the Attorney General of Washington to ensure compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA) while ensuring the safety of our elected officials, staff, and the public. The City will continue holding City Council Meetings in a virtual format while observing requirements. However, there will be some changes to the way meetings are held.

#### **City Council Member Attendance**

City Councilmembers will not be attend the meeting in person. Councilmembers will participate in the meeting virtually.

#### **Citizen Attendance**

The virtual attendance by Councilmembers will integrate with the City's system at City Hall, enabling staff to run the [YouTube Livestream](#). This will minimize disruption of the City's standard protocol for the public to listen to council meetings remotely. The City encourages members of the public to attend the meeting via the [YouTube live stream](#) for the safety of all participating. Per the Attorney General of Washington, the City may not prevent citizen attendance in person. Therefore, City Hall will remain open with social distancing measures in place for citizens who choose to attend in person.

### **Citizen's Public Comments**

The City will be observing the guidance of the Attorney General of Washington regarding public comment requirements of the OPMA. The City Council agenda will include a general public comment period and public comments for agenda items when required. The City will be requesting that any public comment be emailed or delivered to the City by 4pm the day of the meeting. The email address that comments will be sent to is [clerk@ci.lacenter.wa.us](mailto:clerk@ci.lacenter.wa.us). The submission will need to include:

- General Comment or Public Hearing Comment
- Citizen Name
- Address
- Comment

The Citizen's comment will be read by the City Clerk staff during the public comment period, observing the 3-minute time limit. Any citizen who chooses to attend the meeting in person will be invited to speak into the microphone during the public comment period.

For more information about the City's response to COVID-19, visit [www.ci.lacenter.wa.us](http://www.ci.lacenter.wa.us) or on the City's Facebook page.