



RENO-SPARKS INDIAN COLONY
★ CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE

34 Reservation Road, Reno, NV 89502
Phone: (775) 329-2936 • Fax: (775) 954-0175

March 13, 2020 – PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT on COVID-19

All RSIC Tribal Members & Residents,

As the Chairman of the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony and on behalf of Tribal Council, I would like to assure you, the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony is doing everything within its capability to protect our tribal community from the outbreak of the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). First, I must express how important it is that we approach this with a sense of calm and responsibility.

We are working closely with our Tribal Health Center and Emergency Services Department to execute our Continuity of Operation Plan (COOP). The COOP Plan is to ensure that RSIC is fully capable of addressing all types of emergencies, including the outbreak of COVID-19. The Tribal Health Center, Emergency Services Department, Tribal Council and Directors have been attending numerous meetings, webinars, conference calls, etc... to keep in sync with the Center for Disease Control (CDC), World Health Organization, Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, Washoe County Health District, and Indian Health Services to make decisions regarding COVID-19.

Right now, the Tribe has decided to cancel/postpone all March-June community events and suspend employee out-of-state travel until further notice; as well as, working with the Public Works Department to sanitize all public areas and offices only. They are not giving out any supplies at this time. The Tribal Health Center has also fully activated their action plan to take precautionary measures to protect patients, community, and RSIC Staff. The Senior Center is providing home delivery lunch only. They are not serving lunch at the Senior Center (TLC location).

In collaboration with the Tribal Health Center, we have attached a *Family Handbook – Preparing for the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)* and Reno Sparks Indian Colony Declaration of Emergency, following Governor Sisolak's Nevada State's Declaration of Emergency.

We will do our best to keep you informed on the fast changing status of COVID-19 and resources that are available to tribal members, as they develop. Additionally, follow Reno-Sparks Indian Colony on Facebook or go our website at www.rsic.org and click on the COVID-19 Information box. The Family Handbook will also be available on www.rsic.org.

Another way to find current COVID-19 information is to go online to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at www.cdc.gov or Washoe County Health District website at www.washoecounty.us/health.

We kindly ask, if you have any of the COVID-19 symptoms to call the Washoe County Health District for a Coronavirus Assessment at 775-328-2427. We also ask you to be a good neighbor and report your status to the Tribal Health Center; 775-329-5162; to help from spreading to other community members; especially our elders.

The Reno-Sparks Indian Colony is doing everything within its capability to protect our tribal community from the outbreak of the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). Again, I must express how important it is that we approach this with a sense of calm and responsibility. As a community, we all have a greater responsibility, in times like this, to protect and care for our families, our elders and children. I am confident that if we work together and follow the preventive measures we should be ok. We will keep you informed.

Respectfully,

Arlan D. Melendez
Chairman





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DECLARATION OF STATE OF EMERGENCY
FOR THE RENO-SPARKS INDIAN COLONY:

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony ("Colony") empowers the Tribal Council to enact legislation for the purpose of safeguarding and promoting the peace, safety, and the general welfare of the members of the Colony, which provision by its necessary scope includes declaration of a state of emergency, and further that the Tribal Council may delegate certain powers and acts to the Chairman of the Tribal Council, such as declaration of a state of emergency or disaster and to thereafter seek ratification by the Tribal Council when timely action to declare a state of emergency or disaster cannot be taken by the Tribal Council when any man-made or natural events or circumstance are causing or threatening loss of life, injury to person or property, human suffering or financial loss to the extent that extraordinary measures must be taken to protect the public health, safety, and welfare; and

WHEREAS, the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony's Tribal Council is not in session and cannot immediately be called into session; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization has declared the COVID-19 (coronavirus) outbreak a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the State of Nevada as well as other States in the United States have declared states of emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, there are multiple confirmed and presumptive cases of COVID-19 in the State of Nevada; and

WHEREAS, the Colony Emergency Operations Center, through its Emergency Services Manager, has recommended that the Tribal Chairman declare a state of emergency within the Colony for the purpose of marshalling assets and resources to protect the health and safety of members of the Colony, as well as residents, guests and employees present within Colony lands; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council Chairman does hereby find and proclaim that an emergency exists due to the COVID-19 pandemic and its actual and potential impact on Colony lands in Reno, Nevada and in Hungry Valley, commencing on this 13th day of March, 2020 at 3:00 p.m.

WHEREAS, extraordinary measures must be taken by the governing body of the Colony, its Tribal Council, to protect the public health, safety, and welfare of individuals within Colony lands; and



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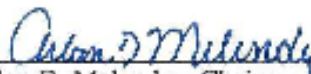
NOW, FOR THE REASONS SET FORTH IN THE RECITALS ABOVE, IT IS HEREBY DECLARED THAT A LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY EXISTS in the lands of the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony in Reno, Nevada and in Hungry Valley, Nevada.

IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED, that during the existence this local state of emergency, the powers, functions, and duties of the Tribal Council Chairman, Tribal Administrator, Emergency Services Manager, and the Emergency Services System of this Colony shall be those prescribed by the Colony's Constitution, Ordinances, Tribal Council Resolutions, job descriptions and emergency plans approved by the Colony and its Tribal Council.

IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED, that this local emergency shall be deemed to continue to exist unless the Tribal Council, at its next lawful meeting, fails to ratify this declaration, or until the Tribal Council or Tribal Council Chairman determines the circumstances requiring this state of emergency no longer exist or the threat of an emergency has passed, and the Tribal Council or Tribal Council Chairman terminates this emergency declaration.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that a copy of this Declaration be forwarded to the Governor of the State of Nevada, the Nevada Director of the Division of Emergency Management, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and President of the United States of America, as appropriate and necessary, requesting that they declare and/or acknowledge that a state of emergency exists on the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony lands, including its Hungry Valley community, and that aid be provided to the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony as a result of said state of emergency.

DATED: March 13, 2020


Arlan D. Melendez, Chairman
Reno-Sparks Indian Colony





DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, Nevada Revised Statutes, Chapter 414, authorizes the Governor to issue a proclamation declaring a state of emergency when a natural emergency or disaster of major proportions has occurred within this state, and the assistance of state agencies is needed to supplement the efforts and capabilities of political subdivisions to save lives, protect property, and protect the health and safety of persons in this state, particularly through a coordinated response; and

WHEREAS, the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are responding to an outbreak of a respiratory illness that has since been confirmed in numerous countries, including the United States; and

WHEREAS, the respiratory disease has been named coronavirus disease 2019, abbreviated as COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization declared the COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the State of Nevada has been coordinating with the federal government, as well as local health authorities, health care facilities, and providers of health care to prepare for, and identify possible cases of COVID-19 in the State of Nevada; and

WHEREAS, the nearby states of California, Washington, Oregon, Arizona, and Utah have been impacted by COVID-19 and have already declared a state of emergency; and

WHEREAS, there are multiple confirmed and presumptive cases of COVID-19 in the State of Nevada; and

WHEREAS, the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services is working with local health authorities to identify any other potential cases of COVID-19 in the State; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Medical Officer has reported that a public health emergency exists in the State; and

WHEREAS, the Governor has determined that the State of Nevada is experiencing events that require a coordinated response for the health and safety of the public; and

WHEREAS, Article 5, Section 1 of the Nevada Constitution provides: "The supreme executive power of this State, shall be vested in a Chief Magistrate who shall be Governor of the State of Nevada."

NOW THEREFORE, I, Steve Sisolak, Governor of the State of Nevada, pursuant to the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of Nevada, hereby declare an emergency and direct all state agencies to supplement the efforts of all impacted and threatened counties to save lives, protect property, and protect the health and safety of persons in this state. Under my authority, I will perform and exercise such other functions, powers, and duties as are necessary to promote and secure the safety and protection of the civilian population.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

SECTION 1: The State Emergency Operations Center be activated to coordinate a response to minimize the impacts, and prevent the further transmission of, COVID-19 to persons in this state; and

SECTION 2: An Emergency Team be established to coordinate the response to COVID-19; and

SECTION 3: The Emergency Team will consult with the Nevada Tribal Emergency Coordinating Council to ensure a coordinated response to COVID-19; and

SECTION 4: The Administrator of the State Purchasing Division, pursuant to Nevada Administrative Code 333.114, to the extent necessary, may authorize an emergency purchase for any amount, or provide the using agency with written authorization for the emergency purchase, including, without limitation, a description of the justification for authorizing the emergency purchase, and suspend the standard procurement process to allow the purchase of food, supplies, services, and equipment; and


SECTION 5: Law enforcement, including the Nevada Attorney General, will diligently monitor and investigate a coordinated increase in prices for goods or services, and particularly goods or services necessary for the health and safety of the public or that result in economic hardships, making false representations, "bait and switch" practices, failure to disclose material facts in conjunction with the sale of goods or services, or the use of coercion, duress, or intimidation in a transaction in violation of consumer protection laws; and


SECTION 6: Law enforcement, including the Nevada Attorney General, will diligently ensure that persons or corporations act and perform in a lawful manner which ensures the safety, health, comfort, or repose of any considerable number of the public, do not offend public decency, or in any way renders a considerable number of persons insecure in life or the use of property.

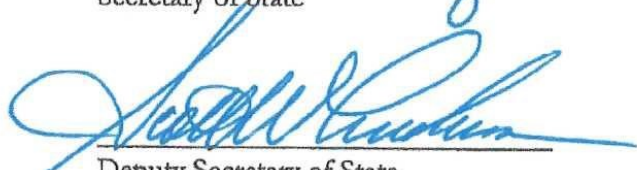
SECTION 7: This declaration will remain in effect until the Chief Medical Officer notifies the Governor that the health event has been abated and the Governor issues an order terminating the emergency.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Nevada to be affixed at the State Capitol in Carson City, this 12th day of March, in the year two thousand twenty.


Governor of the State of Nevada


Secretary of State


Deputy Secretary of State