

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-02

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LOS ALTOS
DECLARING THE EXISTENCE OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY DUE TO THE
COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

WHEREAS, on March 12, 2020, the Los Altos City Manager, in his capacity as the City's Director of Emergency Services, proclaimed a local emergency in response to the escalation of COVID-19 to a pandemic, and on March 17, 2020, the City Council adopted Resolution 2020-08 ratifying and continuing the proclamation of local emergency; and

WHEREAS, since October 2021, the City Council has monthly adopted resolutions extending the declaration of a local emergency; and

WHEREAS, by the beginning of January 2023, approximately 2,500 Santa Clara County residents had died of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, due to the diligence of Los Altos residents in complying with health guidance Los Altos has one of the lowest rates of reported incidence of COVID-19 infection in Santa Clara County; and

WHEREAS, vaccines provide proven protection against COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, by the beginning of January 2023, approximately 87.9 percent of Santa Clara County residents of all ages had been vaccinated, and statewide vaccination rates were higher than the national average; and

WHEREAS, the Governor lifted the Blueprint for a Safer Economy on June 15, 2021, and local health restrictions have also been lifted due to sharp declines in COVID-19 case counts since vaccines first became available; and

WHEREAS, despite progress in addressing the pandemic, not all eligible individuals are fully vaccinated, and new, more virulent variants of the SARS-CoV-2 virus are spreading in California and throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, although breakthrough infections are rare for fully vaccinated individuals, available COVID-19 vaccines have proven less effective against variants than against prior strains of the SARS-CoV-2 virus; and

WHEREAS, despite significant progress, COVID-19 remains a threat to public health and safety in the Los Altos community; and

WHEREAS, throughout the pandemic, the City of Los Altos has taken steps to address the health crisis, for example, by facilitating outdoor dining within the City; and

WHEREAS, AB 361 requires the City Council make findings every thirty (30) days reaffirming the existence of a local emergency; and

WHEREAS, in view of the ongoing health crisis, the City Council now desires to affirm its existing declaration of local emergency.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Los Altos that:

1. The City Council has reviewed the need for continuing the declaration of local emergency and finds, based on substantial evidence, that the foregoing recitals are true and correct and that the public interest and necessity require the continuance of the proclamation of local emergency related to COVID-19.
2. Said local emergency shall be deemed to continue to exist until terminated by the City Council of the City of Los Altos.
3. The Director of Emergency Services is hereby directed to report to the City Council within thirty (30) days on the need for further continuing the local emergency. If deemed appropriate the City Council may take further action.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Los Altos at a meeting thereof on the 10th day of January 2023 by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmembers Fligor, Dailey, Lee Eng, Vice Mayor Weinberg, Mayor Meadows
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None



Sally Meadows, MAYOR

Attest:



Angel Rodriguez, INTERIM CITY CLERK