



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

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PRESS RELEASE

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BOARD ENACTS TEMPORARY EVICTION MORATORIUM

Due to extraordinary impacts to residents and businesses from the COVID-19 pandemic and in alignment with communities throughout California, the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday unanimously passed a moratorium on residential and commercial evictions.

The eviction moratorium will remain in place through May 31, 2020. Commercial and residential tenants are still obligated for rent due, and the eviction moratorium does not absolve tenants of any financial obligation under ongoing leases or other tenancy agreements.

“For the good of themselves and the community, we encourage tenants and landlords to begin conversations now to work things out going forward,” Supervisor Ryan Coonerty said. “We cannot force people out onto the streets during this crisis. It’s going to take all us working collaboratively together to get through this.”

On March 4, Santa Cruz County Public Health Officer Dr. Gail Newel declared a local health emergency, which was ratified by the Board of Supervisors on March 10. On that date, the Board of Supervisors concurrently declared a local state of emergency. Since then, Gov. Gavin Newsom issued a statewide shelter-in-place order in order to protect public health and safety, and gave local governments the authority to suspend evictions.

With many employees out of work, non-essential workers staying home, non-essential businesses closed, and other local businesses seeing a loss of customers, the economic impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak are beginning to manifest, and access to shelter is critical in order to maintain social distancing and slow the spread of the disease.

For local information on COVID-19, go to www.santacruzhealth.org/coronavirus, call 211 or text “COVID19” to 211211. Residents may also call (831) 454-4242 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 6 p.m.