March 23, 2020

Honorable Members of the City Council
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Council Colleague:

The growing coronavirus pandemic is unlike anything we have seen in our lifetime. The City of Los Angeles, like much of the nation and world, is in tough and challenging times.

As City representatives, we have to do everything in our power, legislatively and otherwise, to ensure our fellow Angelenos stay as healthy as possible, economically stable, and emerge from this pandemic with hope for a brighter future. They need their Councilmembers to rise to this challenge head on, and we have begun doing that work and we will undoubtedly continue.

Before the City and County’s “Safer at Home” and the State’s Lockdown policies were announced last week to keep people at home and further reduce public gatherings to 10 or fewer people, my office was working with City staff to host a City Council meeting this Tuesday that was, in part, being planned as a teleconferencing meeting with public comment by phone. The meeting would have also included some Councilmembers in the Council Chambers.

Your safety and wellbeing, as well as the safety and wellbeing of City staff, is profoundly important to me.

Therefore, effective immediately, we are canceling Tuesday’s, March 24, 2020, meeting, and the March 31, 2020 meeting, as we continue to work on ensuring any future meetings meet all recommended safety standards and is ready, logistically and otherwise.

All items on the Tuesday, March 24, 2020 City Council agenda will be rescheduled to a future date. In addition, interested parties will receive new, timely notice of the future hearing dates for items in the section labeled "Noticed for Public Hearing."

All council presentations and all committee meetings shall remain canceled until further notice.
We have a collective responsibility and obligation to the people of Los Angeles to keep our government operating while protecting the safety and welfare of its employees, the public and the media.

This City Council gave numerous instructions to staff as a result of last week’s meeting on the COVID-19 response and, one way or another, we must meet to resolve those items and assist the good people of Los Angeles.

These are unprecedented times and, as I said before, we are in uncharted waters. We must remain calm, diligent and ready to act. Should there be any emergency items that the Council needs to address, I will convene an emergency meeting to take action once all safety and logistical concerns have been met.

I am extremely proud of the effort this body is taking to keep our constituents informed about COVID-19 in all matters: precautions, resources, assistance, including direct service in your respective communities. Let’s keep that conversation and spirit of giving active during these extremely trying times.

Please be safe and blessings to each and every one of you, your staff, our City staff working throughout the City, and the four million residents of the Great City of Los Angeles.

If further action is necessary, I will keep you informed. Thank you for your understanding.

Sincerely,

Nury Martinez
Los Angeles City Council President
Councilwoman, 6th District

Cc: The Honorable Eric Garcetti, Mayor
    Holly Wolcott, City Clerk
    Sharon Tso, Chief Legislative Analyst
    Richard H. Llewellyn, Chief Administrative Officer