



IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO VISALIA BUSINESSES

The Visalia City Council is gravely concerned about ending the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus in Visalia, so that business and life in general can return to some sense of normalcy. This includes ensuring businesses that are not deemed by the State to be essential are following the Governor's Executive Order.

If you own or operate a business that is not designated as one that may be open at this time, or if you own a building in which such business is being conducted, the City may take action against you. PLEASE comply voluntarily with the Governor's Executive Order and avoid more stringent action.

At the City Council meeting of Monday April 6, 2020 the Visalia City Council was briefed by staff and legal counsel regarding actions that may be taken against local businesses refusing to comply with the Governor's Executive Order pertaining to essential and non-essential businesses. The State of California has issued, and updated, a document that outlines essential business types that may remain open (but practicing appropriate virus-spread prevention) during the Stay-At-Home order. That document is available at the State of California's COVID-19 Website:

<https://covid19.ca.gov/img/EssentialCriticalInfrastructureWorkers.pdf>

The City Council discussed both criminal and administrative actions that could be taken against businesses that remain open in defiance of the Governor's order. Potential actions discussed ranged from misdemeanor criminal prosecution to administrative fines to actions including revocation of the offender's business license. The discussion noted that some actions could be taken against the property owner in addition to the business owner.

The City strenuously urges all businesses currently open to take a very close look at the Governor's order and the State's communications on this matter.

Again, if you own or operate a business that is not designated as one that may be open at this time, or if you own a building in which such business is being conducted, the City may take action against you.

If you observe a business out of compliance with the Governor's order, you may notify the City of Visalia by calling the Visalia Police Department Anonymous Tip Line at (559) 734-5302.