

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti Briefing | FRIDAY, MAY 15, 2020

MAYOR GARCETTI: Good evening, Los Angeles. I know it's been two very long hard months since we took the actions to close down here in Los Angeles our restaurants and bars, our night clubs and movie theaters, and these necessary steps that saved lives and everything that you have done have helped us arrive at a point where last week and this week we could finally at last take some steps forward in both controlling the spread of COVID-19 and also seeing our Los Angeles open it up just a little bit more, to see more people able to earn a living, to see more people able to see this beautiful city, from the beaches to the trails, from curbside and door side pickup to manufacturing, we now see a Los Angeles that can meet this challenge while also staying safe.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Thank you for the work that you did to not just bend the curve, but to save lives, and the collective work we are doing to safeguard and restore people's livelihoods. That's what this is all about and has been since the beginning. You made tough sacrifices to lower the infection rate and it's working. You acted not just to protect yourselves and your loved ones, but your neighbors and even more profoundly, strangers who you will never meet but who today are alive because you did the right thing. It's that spirit that it's going to carry us through these next weeks and months. We can take these gradual steps forward because of the success that we have collectively earned in caring for each other.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Beaches are now open to active recreation, swimming and surfing, running and walking. Still can't sunbathe or gather together, but finally the coast is back. Our retail locations are now open for curbside and door-side pickup. This is your chance to shop local. I want to reiterate, please, call a local store, go online if you can buy online and do what you can to make sure we all support local jobs, local businesses and our future. Golf courses and trails except Runyon Canyon in Los Angeles are now open, as are tennis and pickleball courts, archery ranges, equestrian centers, model airplane areas and community gardens as well. Getting out in this beautiful weather and safely doing things reminds us that there are still better days ahead, and these days are better than just days before.

MAYOR GARCETTI: The safer-at-home order does not end today. As I've tried to say, this is just something the entire world and all of us will have, public health direction until there is a cure or herd immunity, something that we will need to continue to have the discipline to live by because with that discipline will come greater freedoms for all of us. It's not a decision the government makes by itself. This is one we collectively make each day. We can't enforce these from City Hall. They are enforced every single moment when we make the right decision, do the right thing and help each one of us. And as I've said, this is a process, one which we look at the numbers, we assess the risk, we look at the need and we try to implement whatever safety we can do to ensure that all of us can get through this together.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Starts with wearing a face covering, starts with physical distancing. As you know, with face coverings we previously said we didn't want to just give lip service to protecting those whom we love and care about who are on the frontlines. We wanted to make sure that we are doing something to protect their lives at essential businesses. So now we are asking all Angelenos to have your face covering whenever you leave the house. Whenever you come into contact with people, make sure it is on. You don't need to wear a face covering if you are in a car by yourself, that gets asked a lot, if you're just walking out to get the paper or check

the mail down the driveway. But otherwise, wear a face covering. And they will make an enormous difference.

MAYOR GARCETTI: This face covering is one part of a system that keeps us all safe. That includes staying safer at home. I know we can start to slip and forget to wash our hands or maybe physically distance at less than six feet. Make sure that you do that and take advantage of the free testing that we have as well. And soon we're adding expanded contact tracing and symptom- screening as well. Doing one of these things helps? Doing all of them by all of us ensures that we will continue having forward steps and forward momentum in the weeks ahead. You know, wearing a face covering isn't an inconvenience, it's actually a statement. Wearing a face covering says, "I love and I care for my neighbors." Wearing a face covering says, "I respect for workers on the frontlines." A face covering says, "We will beat this."

MAYOR GARCETTI: And if people do this, if we keep these face coverings on, we keep our distance and wash our hands, we will beat this virus and open many more businesses, go back to many more activities and take many steps forward. This is up to all of us. And I'm confident we can meet the challenge. For those who have lost a loved one, it's a reminder of how serious this business is. These aren't inconveniences because of the lives lost or the medical personnel when I go to some of those eight o'clock thank yous in front of hospitals they say, "Tell everybody not to forget us. We still have cases coming in every day. We are still at great risk. Some of our people have gotten sick and even died. So tell people their behavior matters and their actions have an impact."

MAYOR GARCETTI: With that, let me update you on the data that's come in this week and compare it to where we were last week. Today we learned of 962 more positive COVID-19 cases in the County of Los Angeles, bringing our total to 36,259 cases. This is a three percent increase since yesterday. One week ago on Friday, we had 883 new cases and a total of 30,296. A week ago, we marked 6,081 cases for the week. This week, 5,963 new cases. In the city, there were 395 cases today, and that brings our total in the city of LA to 17,432 cases, which is a two percent increase since yesterday. To compare with the week before, there were 310 cases and a total of 14,563.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And the worst part of my night, and I know the news you don't want to hear, is that we had 47 news deaths confirmed in the last 24 hours countywide, bringing the total to 1,755, a three percent increase since yesterday. Comparing that to a week ago last Friday, there were 51 deaths reported and 1,468 deaths total. This week was less deadly by a little than last week, that's good news. We added 287 total deaths, that's not good news for this week compared to 302 total deaths the week before. Each one of those numbers representing untold sadness.

MAYOR GARCETTI: But as I've said many times, COVID-19 is not a problem that we will resolve overnight. As much as we want the pace to quicken, COVID-19 demands our discipline. The number of cases since March has grown week over week. However, over the past few weeks, new cases have plateaued to about 800 to 1,000 new cases per day countywide. Similarly, the number of deaths is now stabilized at about 300 a week. But let's put those

numbers in perspective. A lot of people said, "Oh, this is not more than the flu" in terms of the deaths that we have. But to put these numbers in perspective, 125 Angelenos died from the flu in Los Angeles County last season which was from August 2018 to August 2019. What that means is that more residents are dying from COVID-19 in a single week in Los Angeles County than die from the flu in a single year.

MAYOR GARCETTI: The stabilizing of a curve also means the pandemic is not growing out of control, and that's a good thing for all of us to hear. We are not seeing the data skyrocket as we did in previous weeks, and as time goes on, I want to thank you for helping manage this unprecedented challenge. An every time you take an action with a face covering or washing your hands or keeping your distance, you help us limit the spread of this virus. And those decisions make a big difference and they actually save lives. It's not every day you get to save lives, but every day that's exactly what you have been doing and can continue to do as well.

MAYOR GARCETTI: To everybody who has been spared the terrible pain of losing someone they love to COVID-19 and therefore thinks that this virus strikes only those who are elderly or vulnerable, to them I'd say you are wrong. This virus takes the lives of people on the prime of their lives as well. People like Jory Bahanan, who died on March 30th. Jory was called Jay and he was laid to rest one week shy of his fortieth birthday. He was a kind and thoughtful Angeleno, a person who is always looking out for others. He was a huge sports fan who grew up here in LA but he rooted hardest for Chicago teams because that's where he was born. And Jay was a great dad who taught his kids an important lesson to never be afraid of life. Never be afraid. He had an essential job that he loved getting people to where they needed to go. After 14 years as a driver and bus operator at Metro, Jay recently started working in Santa Clarita, and he always greeted passengers with a smile, he chatted with them, made sure that they felt safe. He was taken way too soon. And he leaves behind so many people who miss him, most of all his parents, his 11-year-old daughter Janelle and a stepson, Julian, who is 17.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Let's hold them in our hearts now and everybody who's lost someone. Let's send this family strength collectively and all families who've lost someone, and let's move forward like Jay would've, without fear, unafraid and with love. And let's keep doing our part for every Angeleno by keeping them safe, and I offer my deepest condolences to every grieving family tonight. Making sure our hospitals stay below capacity and can handle any emergency surge, this is critical to our mission. And so across the county our general emergency hospitals have today 1,077 beds available, 891 of them for acute care and 186 in ICU units, and an inventory of 1,243 available ventilators.

MAYOR GARCETTI: We have a large testing infrastructure, as you know, that is leading the nation. Across the city and county test sites, last Friday we had the capacity to test about 20,000 people and had tested 250,000 to date. Today, by the end of today, we have the capacity of 21,000 a day, and we will have tested 350,000. It's an incredible increase in just one week. And remember, anybody can get tested even if you don't feel sick, if you haven't done, it as always, I remind you, go to coronavirus.lacity.org/testing or call us at 213-978-20--Sorry, 1028. Or just call 311 after 5:00 p.m.

MAYOR GARCETTI: As Angelenos adapt to and adjust to our new reality, we're always trying to work to make your life a little bit easier and our communities more livable. And tonight I can announce the full launch of our Slow Streets Program. This is an exciting moment for us to have a little bit more space in our neighborhoods to do what we are already doing: walking, taking a young baby out in a stroller, skating, biking. Temporarily we will restrict traffic, that is the auto traffic, on certain neighborhood streets, so that Angelenos can have that space to run, to walk, to bike. We are not fully closing any streets. We know that families still need to be able to drive to and from their homes, so emergency access will always be allowed. But we are going to redirect traffic of some of our local roads for stretches of about two miles, so more of us can have some safety and easier move through our neighborhood streets.

MAYOR GARCETTI: We've already begun this program in two neighborhoods: Del Rey and Sawtelle, where we've worked with Councilmember Mike Bonin who has led on this issue and thank you, Mike, for your leadership. He's also the chair of our Transportation Committee, and to Del Rey and West LA Sawtelle neighborhood councils who've been so integral in getting this off the ground. This first phase covers about seven miles total in West LA streets but it's just the start. Already a dozen full applications have been submitted in neighborhoods around Los Angeles from the Valley to Northeast Los Angeles, South Los Angeles and the Westside. So please, if you are interested in sponsoring in your neighborhood an initiative to do the same thing, go to coronavirus.lacity.org/slowstreets to learn more and to tell us where the next bring this program.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Slow Streets are all about you. It's about your health, it's about your wellness, it's about enabling folks to get some exercise while you are remaining closer to home without having to go to a park or trail or a beach. It's also about equity, not everybody lives right next to a park with hills, not everybody is close to the beach. We should make sure that hard-hit communities and those that are more inland or in flatter areas have the same exercise capacity as other places as well. The Slow Streets is also about pedestrian safety, knowing you can safely walk someplace because we've seen a recent uptick in the number of fatal traffic collisions on our roads, so we need drivers to continue to slow down. More people are walking. I know there's less traffic, so the temptation is to speed. But trust me, we are out there with officers and we need you to continue to do the right thing. Slow Streets is also about physical distancing. This is about how we live with COVID-19, and we can have that space without infecting one another even as more of the city opens up. And Slow Streets finally is about taking responsibility, it's about doing right by our neighbors and showing respect for everyone's health. So as we made these changes on some of our streets, we are also keeping a few of the previous changes in place.

MAYOR GARCETTI: When I first issued the safer-at-home order, I announced changes in parking enforcement to make sure we weren't penalizing you because we're asking you to be home. We still were sweeping the streets, but we weren't going to ticket you simply because you couldn't move a car, because you were staying home and you needed to be home. We stopped ticketing and towing abandoned and oversized vehicles, vehicles with expired registration, and for recently expired permit parking placards as well. Those parking enforcement changes were supposed to end today, but I'm pleased to announce that we're extending them to June 1st. We'll

regularly access all the time what the conditions are, and we'll never penalize you for having to stay at home and doing the right thing. So we'll keep looking at that, but as of today those are extended. We're still enforcing parking across the city, but they're focused on prioritizing those main areas, health, and safety that allow our emergency workers to get around, helping businesses that rely on pickup and delivery, it's like those new zones that we have for our restaurants and our retailers to make sure that they can safely get business to the curbside.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And everything that we do, every action that we take, all of it is a reminder that this moment requires all of us to act together. As I've highlighted in so many of these briefings, our local government is joined by philanthropists, nonprofit activists, advocates, and everyday Angelenos who are stepping up to give back to all of us. That's what we've seen for The Giving Spirit, a remarkable organization that I always go to and Tom Bagamame and everybody else who's a part of it who've been just extraordinary leaders to help us combat homelessness here in Los Angeles. They've committed to serving 10,000 homeless lives in 60 days during this crisis by assembling and delivering health and safety kits with food and water, health and hygiene, a knapsack to store and carry personal belongings and handmade cards that are filled with our LA love, the compassion and the message that we see you, you matter and there's help for you.

MAYOR GARCETTI: It's the same gratitude that we show our frontline COVID-19 workers, our essential first responders and nurses and doctors and medical professionals, hospital staff across the city, our firefighters and police officers and military personnel who are standing firm to save lives. And with our military and national guard always here to support us, we've seen the Bob Hope USO leap into action, delivering hot meals to our service members and law enforcement who are working long hours at the port, putting on virtual entertainment programs for military families and producing and sending more than 1,500 face coverings to military members who are assigned to our city.

MAYOR GARCETTI: That's the same spirit that we've seen from folks who've helped us stand up the Angeleno Card program, more than \$20 million of donations to date that will help 60,000 Angelenos with the cash and the basic necessities that they need to get through this crisis. So far, we've already helped 27,000 Angelenos with 9,000 cards, over \$9 million has already been distributed, and we expect that pace to pick up in coming days. Please help us sustain that work and sustain our families and sustain our neighbors, go to mayorsfundla.org/angeleno to donate tonight.

MAYOR GARCETTI: I read your texts, I answer your calls, and I listen to your questions asking those core things: when can I see other members of my family again? When will the gutwrenching economic pain end? When will hope push horror out of the headlines? By fighting this virus together, by supporting our local businesses, by wearing our face coverings, by physical distancing, by washing our hands, by doing what is right, we will get through this together. I hope each week is a brighter one for us. And that's, again, as it's been from the beginning of this, not in my hands but in yours, by the things that you do, the love that you show, the generosity that you share, the discipline that you have, there is a certainty that we've always

been in this together. We may hate COVID-19, but it's taught us lessons about what's important in life, our families and our friends, the caring for one another.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And so we've learned that we all can do more when we stay safe and we stay healthy and whenever we can, we continue to stay at home. Thank you, Los Angeles, for your courage, thank you for what you've done, and as always I wish you much strength and much love. And with that, let me thank the press, and I'd be happy to answer any questions we have tonight. Thank you. First question, please.

OPERATOR: I'll go to the lineup of Josh Haskell with ABC7, your line is open.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Hey, Josh.

JOSH HASKELL: Hey, mayor. Question about the order that will take effect in one week that requires the homeless living under freeway overpasses, underpasses, exit ramps, to be relocated. Will you enforce this and where would you house those relocated?

MAYOR GARCETTI: There is no such order. I know that Judge Carter is talking about focusing on that, but there's no order that folks need to be moved. I think we share a common concern, advocates, business communities, Judge Carter, he county, other cities and the city of Los Angeles about people who are experiencing homelessness. And one of the considerations that we should all be concerned about is people who live over or under a freeway overpass are exposed to unhealthier conditions on top of everything else they're exposed to on the street. But there is no such order coming.

MAYOR GARCETTI: There is an ongoing discussion, negotiation and new resources that thankfully my plea of two years ago to have a FEMA-like response, to build on measures H and HHH and get new emergency state funds and federal funds, that some of those things are finally coming to fruition, whether it's hotel and motel rooms, whether it's the testing that we're doing, new shelters we've stood up in our rec centers, or the work that we're doing to prioritize those areas. The judge has asked us to work with him to prioritize folks that are there living under and over freeway overpasses, and we hope in the coming week that we can come to some common agreements with all the parties in the court case. Thank you. Next question, please.

OPERATOR: Next we'll open a line of Rober Kovacik with NBC. Your line is open.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Hey, Robert.

ROBERT KOVACIK: Mayor Garcetti, happy Friday, sir.

MAYOR GARCETTI: You too, Robert.

ROBERT KOVACIK: And we know what day this is, May 15th. I'm curious to know as we've approached now what is no longer a deadline, but what many hoped would be, if you can assess where we are in terms of did you think things would be better by now? Do you fear things will

get progressively worse? Or you know, just sort of your overall assessment. And second question for you, and if we can start with it, that's fine as well. What is your take on the North County breakaway that we are seeing evidence of right now? The mayors of Lancaster, Santa Clarita, and Palmdale have told us that they're ready to move ahead with or without any further direction.

MAYOR GARCETTI: So I'll start there. Those are not my cities, and I have tremendous respect for all my brother and sister mayors and city councilmembers throughout the city. I convene, I think, as you know, and have quarterly for the last seven years all 88 city mayors so we have a common place. We had a phone call this week as well and some mayors said, "What do we do if we want to move more quickly?" That's a question that is in the county's hands. I think it does get confusing when we have a patchwork of different things within a single county, let alone within a region. And we saw that, we saw that when Orange County was different than LA County. We tried to merge those as much as possible. But I hope can take those sort of steps together. It's up to, you know, the county to lay down what the basic rules are that we cannot exceed.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Of course, cities can go more slowly and may assess doing that. There may be times when there're places with more spread, but it's a common misconception that somehow this is only concentrated, for instance, in the urban core areas. Some of the more suburban areas have infection rates that are just as high as the county average. So again, that is more of a county question than one for me, and I respect that the governor has allowed counties, and maybe there is a mechanism to do that across cities as well, to go differently. But today that does exist. The county says, "This is the maximum you can do, but you certainly can do less if you want to."

MAYOR GARCETTI: In term of the assessment, sure, I like you and everybody else had hoped we'd be out of the woods, that there'd be a vaccine as quickly as possible, that we might be further, but I'm very proud of where this city and the county is right now. We certainly saved thousands, if not tens of thousands, of deaths. The LA metro area is more densely populated than the New York metro area, and just look at the difference between the two places. Our heart goes out to New York area, which has suburban areas that were hit very hard; it's not just about density, as well as areas inside New York City. And I know what we've done has saved lives.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Secondly, I'm really proud that last couple of weeks we're able to take steps forward. We earned those steps. They are rooted in the science. They are supported by Public Health officials, and they showed that there isn't going to be darkness every single day and every single week. And more light will continue to come in the more we adhere to these things and walk together. So whether it's the second question or the first, hopefully as often as possible, we can take those steps together, whether it's our private actions or whether it's our public permissions. And if we do that, I'm very optimistic that throughout the summer we'll see more and more of that happening with the caveat, you know, we'd never want to predict too far into the future. We have to share the information, assess that, when you take a step you have to wait about three weeks to see the impact, but I'm optimistic that three weeks from now we'll see

this level holding, and if so, I'm going to be asking, "What comes next?" Thanks, Robert. Next question, please.

OPERATOR: Next open the line of Jim Roope with Westwood One News. Your line is open.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Hey, Jim.

JIM ROOPE: Hello, mayor. How are you? Good afternoon.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Good afternoon.

JIM ROOPE: I was wondering if there's some confusion, I think you cleared up the mask confusion because the county was saying, "You don't need to wear one if you're on a solo walk or a run. In fact, medical experts are saying, "Don't wear a mask if you're running on a hot day because that's not healthy for you." So I think you cleared that up, I think any common sense plays a big role on all of this too. So, thank you very much for clearing that up. If I understand it, take with you wherever you go, if you run into a group of people, put it on. I think that's what you're saying.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Yeah, if you're going to come into contact with anybody, exactly. If you are coming into contact with everybody, have it on.

JIM ROOPE: I'm sorry.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Go ahead.

JIM ROOPE: I'm curious too about the order for the beaches compared to the parks. When you go to parks, you see people gathering and sitting together. They may be families; I'm not saying people are violating any rules. But they, people can sit on the grass at a park but not at a beach, and I don't understand the medical science difference between the two. It would be great if you can have some of the medical professionals who are advising you, maybe we can ask these questions to them unless you can answer that question about parks and sitting in the grass and beach as not being allowed to sit in sand, please.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Yeah, I think that's a good question to direct to the county public health officials. As it's been explained to me, though, certainly is that mad rush on a beautiful day where so many people show up that you no longer can physically distance yourself and beaches of constrained a piece of real state. Parks can be too, but many of them are bigger, less people, not everybody rushes to the same park in the way that we all rush to the same beaches. So right now I think maybe we can see that. I've seen some places around the world where they begin to open that up, where they're able to do that. You really just have to be able to regulate the number of people who come in.

MAYOR GARCETTI: We're able to do that, for instance, Griffith Park, long before COVID-19 there's lots of times we had to shut down some of the access points or even admission into the

parks when there's really crowded at days. That's tougher to do on a beach because it's so spread out and, you know, I certainly don't want to see lines of police and sheriffs and our local law enforcement, that's not ever the role I imagined for them. We've got to get through this together not with a police state, but with good behavior. So, I don't have all these answers, I know that the county, though, has said this is what's allowed right now. I think let's take that for a couple of weeks and see, and let's be creative. If we can come up with ways for folks to be able to safely stay there for longer periods of time, I'm all for it. Thank you. Next question.

OPERATOR: Next we'll open the line of Claudia Peschiutta with KNX News Radio. Your line is open.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Hi, Claudia.

CLAUDIA PESCHIUTTA: As the weather is warming up, I'm getting questions from people about the possibility of pools reopening and some so I'm wondering if that's something you're considering at this point. And then, also regarding the masks, I understand that there are not enough officers to enforce the mask requirement for four million people. But then shop owners and employees are stuck trying to get people to comply and you end up with situations like the guard at Target in Van Nuys who suffered a broken arm during a confrontation. If so, is there something more that the city could do to try to, you know, get people to comply without leaving the burden on those who work at the grocery stores and other places? Thank you.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Sure. We said when we put the mandatory face covering requirement in for grocery stores and pharmacies that any business could refuse service if somebody wasn't wearing that because that doesn't meet the law. Like other laws where people can refuse service, of course, we can't have a police officer in every single store, but law enforcement is always available for confrontations like that or for somebody who refuses to abide by what the law is right now. So I'd encourage shop owners to know that, businesses to take advantage of that the way they would pre-COVID-19 for anybody else who's breaking the law in their areas.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Second, I've talked to Chief Moore, and one of the things I think we can do and our park rangers and city employees can do, in areas where we have people out, whether it's parks, maybe the beach, other places, is I'd love to--and we're looking at whether we can find some non-surgical grade masks that are disposable or quick use--is to say, "Hey, educate and then encourage and give them a mask." I think that's a best practice. We're not going to be able to do everywhere, every time, but it's a great way to be able to do that. Same thing with businesses, where they can stock up, and if we have access PPE, will certainly open that up at cost for LA businesses to be able to acquire where they can say, "Hey, somebody comes in, you know you're supposed to be wearing that, or it's actually required. Here is a mask and you please wear that?"

MAYOR GARCETTI: If anybody ever runs in trouble, call us. LAPD is available for this and any other law that is broken, but that's critically important. The pools, the pools themselves, I think most health experts say are not dangerous, but we know pools get crowded. So it's the proximity in pools. It's not that the virus lives where there is chlorinated pools. So I think as

I've seen it, that was quite late in both the guidance from CDC, the state and at the county level. So, I hate to always sometimes be the bearer of bad news, but I don't think that that is right around the corner, and of course, it's also the areas around the pool that are tighter, people are closed by and it's very difficult to physically distance. If you go to a pool typically in the summertime that LA city runs, people are nowhere close to 6 feet apart from each other. So I think it'll probably be some time with pools. Thank you, next question.

OPERATOR: And next open the line of Dakota Smith with LA Times. Your line is open.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Hi Dakota.

DAKOTA SMITH: Good evening, mayor. In the last 24 hours four councilmembers and City Controller Ron Galperin have called on Councilman Jose Huizar to resign. Also City Council President Nury Martinez has asked Jose to stop participating in council meetings. Huizar has not been charged with any crime, as we all know, and some of his constituents tell us that they don't want him to resign. They like him. I also asked Mike Feuer what he thought, and he said any elected official who has been indicted should step down, but of course, Huizar hasn't been indicted. Do you think Huizar should stop participating in meetings, as Martinez has asked him to do? Do you think he should resign if these other councilmembers want him to or do you think he should remain in office? Thank you.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Of course. First of all, let me be clear. We cannot tolerate the kind of behavior that's come to light in recent weeks. It's absolutely unacceptable. As we know, you can have 40,000 employees, you can have dozens of elected officials, all it takes is one, two, a handful of people. We saw this during the Rampart scandal with LAPD when we had amazing officers doing their jobs but those who weren't and who broke the law, polluted the entire pool for everybody. We cannot accept that sort of behavior.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Second, we can't let this dark cloud continue to hang over us. So I support what Council President Martinez said, that I believe that councilmember Huizar should limit his interactions, and if he is indeed charged, he should step aside immediately. I think that is in the public interest. I think it is in community interest, and to any constituent--should that happen--of a district, we have a procedure here in Los Angeles where our chief legislative analyst becomes the acting councilmember to make sure no group of 250,000 people in a council district are not represented, do not get their fair, do not have city services, etcetera. So I want to reassure people of that, that happens when someone leaves early, has to resign, or in cases like this, but I support what Council President Martinez said about making sure that he should step aside for the remainder of this investigation, and if he is charged, he should reassign immediately. Thank you. Next question.

OPERATOR: Our last question for the night will be Spanish. The first one coming from Victor Cordero from EstrellaTV. Your line is open.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Hi, Victor. Buenas tardes.

VICTOR CORDERO: Mayor, ¿qué tal? Alcalde, perdón. Muy buenas tardes. Le voy a hacer la pregunta en inglés y después la hago en español. Mayor, number one, what is the next step to follow in the 5-phases plan, going towards phase 3, when it comes to small businesses? I've talked to a number of small owners and they are eager to open. They need to not only to sustain themselves, but also sustain their employees' families. ¿Cuáles son los pasos a seguir, Alcalde, para los próximos pasos en la etapa 3, en este plan de 5 etapas para los dueños de pequeños negocios que ya quieren abrir, y sobre todo, le pregunto en español, yo no sé si usted ve la tele, mi canal, pero yo lo veo a usted todos los días, y usted dígame estamos a un corte de pelo, hay que abrir los salones de belleza.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Gracias, Victor. I'll answer first in English and then in Spanish, and as always then I'll give my evening address in Spanish. Let me pre-thank everybody who is tuned in and who always, whether it's through any of our local channels and Channel 35, who I always want to thank for their great work, as well as through Facebook and our social media. So the next--there are stages or phases, some people call them, but they're stages and each stage has steps in them. So we're in the beginning of phase 2. Within that phase or stage there are steps like last week, we moved forward with curbside and door-side business, for some businesses, now it's all businesses. We opened up parks, this week it was beaches.

MAYOR GARCETTI: And the county has laid out many of what those next steps could be. For businesses specifically I think that within stage two, under the state regulations, businesses can begin to open their doors, but I think at maximum of 25 percent capacity. And we'd have to see some stronger numbers, I think, for, I don't want to speak for the county, but for the county to move forwards with that, you know, in the next day or two or any time soon, but we have committed to every few weeks looking at this collectively. The county, I know, will look at that in the coming weeks to see whether that is something possible for us to do. There are a lot of other small businesses, for instance, hair salons, barbers that will probably take a little bit longer, that's in stage 3, some offices that are essential can be opened right now, childcare as always been available to be open. That's small business for a lot of people. So these are still in phase 2. The next set of steps would include, I think, the opening of some of the stores to physical customers.

MAYOR GARCETTI: En español, hay etapas y también hay pasos. Hay muchos pasos en cada etapa. Estamos en etapa 2 y comienza etapa 2. Ahora hay servicios solamente en las calles por estos negocios, pero en el futuro, en las próximas semanas tal vez en esta etapa el estado permite la apertura de estos negocios con la capacidad de 25 por ciento, pero necesitamos tener más números buenos, más progreso también para obtener esta certificación del condado de Los Ángeles. Las ciudades del condado, con la excepción de Long Beach y Pasadena, no hace estas decisiones. El poder está en las manos del condado de Los Ángeles, pero espero que los negocios puedan abrir más, expandir la apertura estos pasos de esta semana y la semana pasada pueden continuar porque estos negocios necesitan ayuda, necesitan sus clientes, necesitan el dinero, y con estos pasos estos negocios pueden proveer más trabajos, más prosperidad a sus empleados también, pero probablemente en tres semanas más tendremos más pasos si el número está bien. With that, we have one more question in Spanish. Why don't we go ahead and take that one and then I'll give my address.

OPERATOR: Next open the line of Dinorah Pérez with Telemundo Channel 52. Your line is open.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Buenas tardes.

DINORAH PEREZ: Hi, mayor. Thank you for taking this question. I know you spoke about it in English but I'd like to hear response in Spanish in regards to the judge's order to relocate the homelessness community near the freeways. What plan can be implemented which would be accepted by all sides and also done in a reasonable timeframe? Could you answer that for us in Spanish?

MAYOR GARCETTI: Sure. I'll say it in English too again. I want to reiterate, there is no other that's been put out. Maybe it was reported that way because I know there's a second question. But we're engaged in this negotiation, so there hasn't been a formal order to move people, and I don't want people to be, who might be for that or against that to be scared that suddenly there's a new judicial order that these people have to be moved. What there is, is a focus on them, and a prioritization on them because of the health aspects that disproportionately hit somebody who is experiencing homelessness because of the pollution of the cars and other things on top of, as I mentioned, the other challenges they face on the street.

MAYOR GARCETTI: I'm certainly committed to that being a priority. It has been for me for months, if not years, because I think that those folks are the ones that we see, those are the ones that we can help, and those are the ones where clearly, they are having and even greater disproportionate bad impact on their health. But those numbers have not been agreed upon. I want them to be aggressive and realistic. Those are being negotiated as we speak, good meetings with the judge, my team, city councilmembers. I know the county is doing that as well with the judge and with the parties in court.

MAYOR GARCETTI: So there's something that was just wrote down from me, maybe I didn't know this ahead of time that the judge issued an order so that we are going to review that, but I've talked to him in recent days. He wants to make sure that there is a plan for how that can get achieved. You know, in Orange County he said something like 60 percent, which should be the reduction in smaller cities of the homeless population on the street or an attempt, knowing that many people won't come off the street. So we'll see what those numbers look like as well here in Los Angeles.

MAYOR GARCETTI: También en español, no hay orden, pero hay nuevas noticias, tal vez hay una orden obviamente ahora del juez en este caso de la indigencia en Los Ángeles, pero es una prioridad, no solamente para la ciudad, pero el condado. Y los diferentes grupos en este caso con el juez Carter. No hay números específicamente, pero espero que nosotros podamos tomar los 3,000 más o menos personas que están viviendo cerca de los freeways. Debe ser una prioridad para mí, y en estas seis semanas hemos movido 3,000 personas en nuestros refugios y nuestras habitaciones en los hoteles y moteles, y esta es una buena meta también. Tal vez 60 por ciento, 50 por ciento de estas personas, pero espero encontrar un modelo, un pilot, un piloto, proyecto

piloto para tomar un grupo cerca de un freeway y con el éxito de un grupo, un primer grupo, luego nosotros podemos tomar este modelo y expandir, especialmente cuando nosotros tengamos más fondos del gobierno federal, estatal y del condado. Esta es una oportunidad finalmente para parar la indigencia en las calles de Los Ángeles gracias al juez Carter, un amigo de mí y de esta ciudad, y gracias a los partidos que son parte de este caso, finalmente tendremos los recursos, tendremos la oportunidad y espero que tendremos la coalición.

MAYOR GARCETTI: So let me switch to Spanish. Again, everybody, have a good, safe weekend. Practice good habits out there. Abide by the orders and enjoy what is open. That's certainly something I'm looking forward to doing with my family this weekend. Muy buenas tardes, Los Ángeles. Hemos pasado dos meses largos y duros desde que tomamos la decisión de cerrar restaurantes, bares, teatros y lugares donde la gente se reúne, y de parte de los 4 millones de residentes en nuestra ciudad quisiera agradecerles. Tomaron acción para bajar el número de infecciones, y para proteger nuestras comunidades y familias, no solo a ustedes mismos, pero también a aquellos quienes son más vulnerables y podrán morir del virus. Sus acciones salvaron vidas en Los Ángeles, y por eso podemos tomar pasos adelante en la semana pasada y esta semana también.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Abrimos playas y negocios para ofrecer compras para llevar o para entregar para darnos la oportunidad de apoyar a nuestra economía y proveer más trabajos para nuestras familias. Para hacer aún más progreso, tenemos que hacer aún más para protegernos. Esto empieza con usar coberturas faciales cada vez que salgan de su casa y están en contacto con otras personas. Esta cobertura facial es parte de un gran sistema que nos protege, el quedarse en casa, lavarse las manos, desinfectar las superficies y mantener la sana distancia y nuestras pruebas gratis de COVID-19. Y pronto tendremos la localización de contactos y exámenes de síntomas.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Hacer todo esto protegerá a más personas y ayudará a frenar el brote. El llevar una cobertura facial dice que te preocupas por tus vecinos y muestra tu respeto por los trabajadores al frente de esta crisis. Por favor use una y muéstranos que estamos juntos luchando por Los Ángeles. Ahora les comparto los datos de hoy. Hoy hubieron 962 nuevos casos en el condado de Los Ángeles, llegando a un total de 36,259. En la ciudad tuvimos 395 nuevos casos llegando a un total de 16,432, y hoy supimos del fallecimiento de 47 personas más en el condado, llegando a un total de 1,755 muertes.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Desde marzo, cada semana vemos un aumento semanal del número de casos nuevos. Sin embargo, sobre las últimas semanas este número se ha estabilizado a 800 a 1,000 nuevos casos al día. Esto es bueno. Esto significa que la pandemia no está fuera de control. Sus acciones lo lograron, y estoy muy agradecido a ustedes y sus familias. En nuestros hospitales somos fuertes también. Tenemos 1,077 camas disponibles, entre ellas 186 están en las unidades de cuidados intensivos y tenemos 1,243 respiradores disponibles. Además hoy tenemos la capacidad de hacer pruebas a 21,000 personas al día, y para el final de hoy habremos hecho pruebas a 350,000 personas. Somos líderes en esta nación con pruebas.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Todos se pueden hacer la prueba aunque estén enfermos o no. Visita la página coronavirus.lacity.org/testing o llama al 213-978-1028 o al 311 después de las 5:00 de la tarde. Mientras nos adaptamos a nuestra nueva realidad, seguimos trabajando para hacer sus vidas un poco más fácil y sus comunidades más agradables. Esta noche estoy lanzando el Programa de Calles Lentas, el cual limitará el tráfico en las calles de ciertos vecindarios para que todos tengan más espacio para caminar, correr y montar bicicleta. Este es el principio. Queremos que ustedes nos digan dónde quieren ver este programa. Es su programa. Sea residente, concejo vecinal o una iglesia y club residencial. Visita la página coronavirus.lacity.org/slowstreets para más información y para enviarnos su solicitud.

MAYOR GARCETTI: Además mantenemos las restricciones relajadas de estacionamiento hasta el 1 de junio, y seguiremos asesorando regularmente para extender estas medidas durante la crisis. Todo lo que hacemos se hace porque estamos todos juntos en esta lucha, y ese espíritu de generosidad y preocupación para otros se aplica a nuestro programa de la tarjeta Angeleno. Gracias a las donaciones de 20 millones de dólares que hemos recibido, podemos ayudar a 60,000 vecinos, 60,000. Hasta ahora hemos ayudado a 27,000 personas con distribuir más de 9 millones de dólares con 9,000 tarjetas. Para apoyar en este trabajo visita mayorsfundla.org/Angeleno. Yo sé que todos estamos preocupados con esta crisis, y todos nos estamos preguntando cuándo se acabará esto. Estamos todos juntos por Los Ángeles en esta lucha, entonces les pido que sigan con quedarse protegidos, quedarse en buena salud y por favor, y por ahora, quedarse en casa. Mucha fuerza, mucho amor todo Los Ángeles. Hasta el lunes.