RECOMMENDED ACTION: At the request of Councilmember Mullen, authorize staff to provide 160 N95 particulate respirator masks for inclusion in a donation package to be sent to China for medical personnel treating those affected by coronavirus.

FISCAL IMPACT: This amount was not included in the Adopted Budget for Fiscal Year 2019-2020. The cost of the items to be donated when originally purchased by the City is $88.

WORK PLAN: This item was not included in the Adopted Work Plan for Fiscal Year 2019-2020. This project is part of normal staff operations.

DISCUSSION: The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) is closely monitoring an outbreak of respiratory disease caused by a new coronavirus that was first detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China and which continues to expand. On February 11, 2020, the World Health Organization named the disease coronavirus disease 2019 (abbreviated “COVID-19”).

Chinese health officials have reported tens of thousands of cases of COVID-19 in China, with the virus reportedly spreading from person-to-person in parts of that country. COVID-19 illnesses, most of them associated with travel from Wuhan, also are being reported in a growing number of international locations, including the United States. Some person-to-person spread of this virus outside China has been detected. The United States reported the first confirmed instance of person-to-person spread with this virus on January 30, 2020.
The potential public health threat posed by COVID-19 is high, both globally and to the United States. The fact that this disease has caused illness, including illness resulting in death, and sustained person-to-person spread in China is concerning to the CDC as these factors meet two of the criteria of a pandemic. On January 30, 2020, the International Health Regulations Emergency Committee of the World Health Organization declared the outbreak a “public health emergency of international concern” (PHEIC).

Due to the critical and widespread nature of COVID-19 throughout China, vital medical protective equipment is in extremely high demand and very short supply, which has resulted in costs for the equipment to skyrocket. Jamie Otilie, a Malibu resident, is putting together care packages of environmental suits and N95 masks to send to China for use by medical personnel treating those affected by coronavirus. He has contacted the City for assistance, requesting a possible donation of N95 particulate respirator masks.

The City has a substantial supply of N95 masks purchased after the Woolsey Fire, and staff has determined that it could offer one case (160 per case) of N95 masks without negatively impacting the City’s supply for a possible future disaster. The cost per case when purchased was $88.

Councilmember Mullen is requesting Council authorization to donate 160 N95 particulate respirator masks (one case) to Mr. Otilie to be included in a package of supplies being sent to China for use by medical personnel treating those affected by coronavirus and COVID-19.

ATTACHMENTS: None.