

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RANCHO PALOS VERDES MAYOR JOHN CRUIKSHANK TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

Rancho Palos Verdes (March 23, 2020) — The City of Rancho Palos Verdes is aware that several current and former city officials attended the birthday party of former Mayor Susan Brooks on March 8, which was attended by guests who reportedly subsequently tested positive for the novel coronavirus.

The City has learned that both Mayor John Cruikshank and former Mayor Brooks have since tested positive for COVID-19. Both are in home isolation. Mayor Pro Tem Eric Alegria, who also attended the party, is not exhibiting symptoms and has not been tested, but has chosen to self-quarantine. A City employee who was also in attendance has displayed symptoms and is self-quarantined, but has not been tested at this time.

“I am getting the rest and care I need and taking all necessary precautions as directed by my physician and public health officials,” Mayor Cruikshank said. “I hope my diagnosis underscores the need for all residents to take this crisis seriously and follow all directives from public health officials. COVID-19 is in all of our communities and we must all do our part to slow its spread.”

City Manager Ara Mihranian and Interim Deputy City Manager Kit Fox did not attend the party, but are self-isolating out of an abundance of caution due to their interactions with those officials who did, including Mayor Cruikshank.

“As soon as I got word of the Mayor’s diagnosis over the weekend, I immediately notified all City staff who were in contact with him and other City officials who attended the party,” said City Manager Mihranian. “I also ordered the deep cleaning of City Hall and all City facilities visited by these officials.”

City Hall has been closed to the public since March 14 and almost all employees are working remotely, with only a handful of essential staff on site practicing social distancing and taking all necessary precautions. Deep cleaning is being performed between shifts. City Council and advisory board meetings will be held by teleconference.

The City recognizes the health and well-being of our residents and employees as a top priority, and is committed to keeping them safe. We urge all residents to follow the “Safer at Home” Public Health Officer Order and only leave their homes for essential activities. We also urge the public to diligently practice social distancing, as it is the most effective tool we have to fight this pandemic. We all must do our part to “flatten the curve.”

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