



City of Needles, California Request for City Council Action

☒ CITY COUNCIL ☐ NPUA

☐ Regular ☒ Special

Meeting Date: January 30, 2024

Title: Declaring a Local Emergency due to the Closure of the only California Pharmacy within Needles

Background: Earlier this year, Rite Aid, grappling with financial challenges due to the oversupply of prescription opioids, declared bankruptcy and announced the closure of numerous stores, with over 157 closures slated for California. Unfortunately, the City of Needles received disheartening news this week that its sole pharmacy, Rite-Aid, will close its doors on February 5, 2024, as part of the bankruptcy and restructuring process.

Due to the imminent closure of the sole California Pharmacy in the City of Needles, a vital lifeline for the local community to acquire essential and, at times, life-sustaining medications, goods, and services, the impending shutdown raises concerns about the accessibility of crucial healthcare resources. Furthermore, the cessation of the only existing pharmacy within the city will leave residents without a nearby California pharmacy to fulfill their urgent needs for essential medications, goods, and services, potentially compromising their health and well-being.

In light of the current emergency, the City of Needles faces an imminent threat to the public health, safety, and welfare of its residents. City staff is actively collaborating with various agencies and healthcare providers to identify nearby health care providers, ensuring that Needles residents can consistently access their pharmaceutical needs. Understanding the impact on the community, City Staff has diligently worked with the following entities to formulate a comprehensive solution.

- Rite Aid Pharmacy Staff
- Colorado River Medical Center
- Billet Health
- Needles Unified School District
- Inland Empire Health Plan (IEHP)
- Supervisor Dawn Rowe's Office
- SB County Dept. Public Health
- SB County Dept. Behavioral Health
- Arrowhead Regional Medical Center
- State Senator Steve Padilla's Office
- CA Dept. Health Care Services
- Ca Dept. Managed Health Care

Fiscal Impact: The closure of a pharmacy can have economic repercussions for the city. Job losses among pharmacy staff and related services may contribute to higher unemployment rates and decreased local income.

Environmental Impact: N/A

Recommended Action: Adopt the Emergency Declaration Resolution No. 2024-7 Declaring a Local Emergency due to the Closure of the only California Pharmacy within Needles

Submitted By: Patrick Martinez, City Manager

City Manager Approval: Patrick J. Martinez

Date: 1/29/2024

Approved: ☐

Not Approved: ☐

Tabled: ☐

Other: ☐

Agenda Item: 1