



# BAKERSFIELD

THE SOUND OF *Something Better*

## MEDIA ADVISORY

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
Friday, Dec. 11, 2020

**CONTACT: Joe Conroy**  
**Public Information Officer**  
**(661) 326-3074**  
[JConroy@bakersfieldcity.us](mailto:JConroy@bakersfieldcity.us)

### CITY OF BAKERSFIELD ENCOURAGES REMOTE PARTICIPATION FOR DECEMBER 16 CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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Following the State of California's issuance of a Regional Stay Home Order (RSHO) for the San Joaquin Valley Region – which includes Kern County and Bakersfield – the City of Bakersfield will **close** the December 16 City Council meeting to in-person participation. The City encourages the public to participate remotely, including providing public comment via email or voicemail prior to the meeting.

The December 16 meeting will be largely ceremonial, installing and swearing in City Councilmembers. The City will hold a scaled-down version of the installation ceremony with Councilmembers and their limited special guests. These limited participants will be asked to practice social distancing and to wear facemasks or coverings. **The meeting will not be open to the public.**

Members of the public wishing to provide messages of congratulations or encouragement to incoming or outgoing City Councilmembers are asked to provide those to the City by sending them to this email address: [City\\_Council@bakersfieldcity.us](mailto:City_Council@bakersfieldcity.us). Those messages will be shared separately with the Councilmembers at a future date.

Members of the public may view the 5:15 p.m. meeting live online at <https://bakersfield.novusagenda.com/AgendaPublic/>; or on Kern County Television: Brighthouse Networks Channel 16 or AT&T U-verse Channel 99.

The City recommends that anyone who wishes to offer public comment at the 5:15 p.m. meeting do so either via email or phone message as outlined below.

- Email via the City Clerk's Office at [city\\_clerk@bakersfieldcity.us](mailto:city_clerk@bakersfieldcity.us) by 1 p.m. the day of the meeting; or
- Leave a voicemail comment by calling 661-326-3100. Voicemail messages must be three (3) minutes or shorter. Messages must be received by 4 p.m. the Tuesday before the meeting.

City Manager's Office  
1600 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield, CA 93301  
661-326-3751 FAX: 661-324-1850

The RSHO went into effect in Kern County on Sunday, December 6 and is expected to be in effect for at least three weeks. The order includes the recommendation for the public to avoid gatherings to help prevent the potential exposure to the COVID-19 virus.

Public access to City Council meetings after December 16 will be evaluated for each meeting based on the circumstances as they exist at the time.

The City encourages all residents to follow the guidelines set by the State in its Regional Stay Home Order.

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**SPECIAL NOTICE**  
**Public Participation and Accessibility**  
**December 16, 2020 Bakersfield City Council Meeting**

On March 18, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom issued Executive Order N-29-20, which includes a waiver of Brown Act provisions requiring physical presence of the Council or the public in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On December 6, 2020, the State of California also issued a new “Regional Stay Home Order” that went into effect in Kern County.

Based on guidance from the California Governor’s Office and Department of Public Health, as well as the County Health Officer, in order to minimize the potential spread of the COVID-19 virus, the City of Bakersfield hereby provides notice that as a result of the declared federal, state, and local health emergencies, and in light of the Governor’s orders, the following adjustments have been made:

1. The meeting scheduled for **December 16, 2020, at 5:15 p.m.** will not be physically open to the public.
2. Consistent with the Executive Order, Councilmembers may elect to attend the meeting telephonically and to participate in the meeting to the same extent as if they were physically present.
3. The public may participate in each meeting and address the City Council as follows:
  - View a live video stream of the meeting at <https://bakersfield.novusagenda.com/AgendaPublic/> or, on your local government channel (Kern County Television).
  - If you wish to comment on a specific agenda item, submit your comment via email to the City Clerk at [City\\_Clerk@bakersfieldcity.us](mailto:City_Clerk@bakersfieldcity.us) **no later than 1:00 p.m. prior to the Council meeting.** Please clearly indicate which agenda item number your comment pertains to.
  - If you wish to make a general public comment not related to a specific agenda item, submit your comment via email to the City Clerk at [City\\_Clerk@bakersfieldcity.us](mailto:City_Clerk@bakersfieldcity.us) **no later than 1:00 p.m. prior to the Council meeting.**
  - Alternatively, you may comment by calling **(661) 326-3100** and leaving a voicemail of no more than 3 minutes no later than **4:00 p.m. the Tuesday prior** to the Council meeting. Your message must clearly indicate whether your comment relates to a particular agenda item, or is a general public comment. If your comment meets the foregoing criteria, it will be transcribed as accurately as possible.
  - If you are watching the live stream of the meeting and wish to make a comment on a specific agenda item as it is being heard, please email your written comment to the City Clerk at [City\\_Clerk@bakersfieldcity.us](mailto:City_Clerk@bakersfieldcity.us). All comments received during the meeting **may not be read, but will be provided to the Council and included** as part of the permanent public record of the meeting.