



City's Virus Caseload Grows

Ekene Ikeme
Alameda County experienced its biggest two-week COVID-19 case increase since the *Alameda Sun* began tracking confirmed results on April 20.

According to the Alameda County Public Health Department (ACPHD), there are now 3,515 confirmed coronavirus cases as of June 1, up from 2,522 on May 18. The 993 new cases in the last two weeks far outpaces the increase of 713 cases between May 4 and May 18, and the 618 cases between April 20 and May 4.

The 993 new cases in the last two weeks averages about 71 new cases a day. New cases between May 4 and May 18 averaged about 51 a day, while new cases between April 20 and May 4 averaged about 44 a day.

The county saw the biggest spike between Thursday, May 28, and Saturday, May 30. ACPHD reported 106 new cases on May 28, 108 new cases on May 29 and 109

new cases on May 30. The three-day span accounted for 323 of the 993 confirmed cases in the last two weeks.

New cases in the City of Alameda have also gone up. Alameda saw nine new cases, from 42 to 51, since May 18. Between May 4 and May 18, Alameda had just two new cases.

While confirmed new cases soar, the death rate continues to shrink. ACPHD reported 97 deaths due to COVID-19, up 11 from the 86 deaths reported on May 20. Coronavirus deaths rose by 20 from May 4 to May 18 and by 24 from April 20 to May 4.

Men still make up most of the COVID-19 patients in Alameda County. They account for 1,797 coronavirus patients, while women represent 1,672 patients. Forty-four patients are of unknown gender.

Hispanics make up most of the coronavirus patients in the county with 1,475. However, whites account for the most deaths with 27.



Photos by Eric J. Kos

Over the weekend, several signs appeared in downtown Alameda expressing anger over the death of George Floyd. Signs surrounding Alameda Police Department (APD) contained messages like #BlackLivesMatter. Below, last Saturday night, police kept tabs on the neighborhood from the roof of APD headquarters. Protests nationwide were accompanied by wide-scale destruction and looting at night.

Seniors Can Still Catch a Break on Parcel Tax

Margie Siegal
Measure A, an increase in property taxes designated to improve funding for Alameda Unified School District (AUSD) teachers, passed during the last election. The people who wrote Measure A were concerned that seniors living on fixed incomes and people with disabilities would not be able to afford an additional tax, so they received exemptions from payment.

This exemption is not automatic. Homeowners who qualify have to apply for the exemption. The application has to be mailed to SGI Associates, the administrator for the exemption, no later than Tuesday, June 30. Learn more on AUSD's website at <https://alamedausd-ca.schoolloop.com/measurea>.

Some homeowners have been mailed exemption forms, but not all. I called SGI Associates in Fairfield and asked the person who answered the phone how the names of people who were mailed forms were chosen. He was not able to explain this.

The procedure to obtain an exemption is as follows:

Qualifications for exemption: In order to qualify, a homeowner has to (a) turn age 65 before June 30 or qualify for SSI before that date and (b) occupy the home as their primary residence. The text of the ballot measure says,

"one or more" residents of the home must qualify.

From the language of the ballot measure, it appears that either member of a couple would qualify, however, in other cases the couple may have added an adult child to the deed. In such cases, homeowners should contact SGI Associates at (844) 332-0549 to determine whether or not they qualify. Due to the pandemic, SGI is short staffed and only available during limited hours. When in doubt, call a lawyer.

Getting an application: Applications may be downloaded from <https://alamedausd-ca.schoolloop.com/measurea>, picked up at 2060 Challenger Drive or obtained by calling (844) 332-0549.

Filling out the form: The form is one page. Make sure to check both B1 and A for maximum tax relief and date the form. The assessor's parcel number can be found on your tax bill, most deeds or the assessor's website at www.acgov.org/assessor/resources/parcel_viewer.htm.

Verification Documents: Applicants will need to attach copies of documents verifying ownership of the property, residence and age or disability.

It is important to act now, remember to get your letter in the mail by June 30.

Margie Siegal lives in Alameda.

Police Killing Leads to National Unrest

Island not immune from impacts of George Floyd's death

Ekene Ikeme
The ramifications of George Floyd's death last week in Minneapolis have been felt throughout the country including here in Alameda.

Floyd, 46, died on May 25, after Minneapolis police officer Derek Michael Chauvin held his knee on Floyd's neck for more than eight minutes while trying to arrest him, according to video surveillance. An independent medical examination by renowned forensic pathologist Dr. Michael Baden ruled Floyd's death was caused by asphyxia, when the body is deprived of oxygen.

Alameda Police Chief Paul Rollerli spoke at the Mayor's virtual Town Hall on Friday, May 29. When asked how law enforcement can help people of color feel safe he said, "The only way we could do it is by our deeds, our words and our actions."

Protests were held in Minneapolis on May 26 and nationwide soon after. Rollerli released

a statement on Monday, June 1, expressing his department's contempt over Floyd's death.

"Our community, along with so many, is mourning the senseless death of George Floyd," wrote Rollerli. "What I saw on that video does not reflect the values of the Alameda Police Department (APD) and would not be tolerated by our department. Over the weekend, there were a number of peaceful protests in the Bay Area demanding justice. We stand with residents wanting to take action to prevent such brutal acts of racial injustice from happening again."

A peaceful rally was held at Alameda Police Department last Monday. More than 100 people attended the "The Alameda Solidarity Rally & Protest for Black Lives" event, including Mayor Marilyn Ezy Ashcraft, Councilmember Jim Oddie and Rollerli. Speakers expressed their disdain for police brutality.

What began as peaceful protests in the country in the middle of last week turned into exhibitions of looting and civil unrest by weekend. Images of people ransacking businesses, small and large, were seen on the news and social media. Police departments combated looters with tear gas and rubber bullets.

Here in Alameda there were 15 reports of burglaries or petty

thefts at commercial businesses on Sunday, May 31, and Monday, June 1, resulting in four arrests, according to APD police reports.

"The Alameda Police Department strongly supports the right for people to protest and will do everything we can to facilitate that effort," wrote Rollerli in his June 1 statement. "However, there are other groups that are not associated with the peaceful protesters who are committing violent and illegal acts, including rioting, looting and burglaries, and those acts that harm our community will not be tolerated."

As a result the city enacted an 8 p.m. to 5 a.m. curfew on June 1 and will remain in effect through June 5. Several Alameda businesses boarded up their windows to prevent looting.

An uptick in crime was also noticeably prevalent in the East Bay. An undisclosed amount of APD officers responded to mutual-aid requests from the Alameda County Sheriff Office (ACSO) on Friday, May 29 and Sunday, May 31, according to police reports. APD public information officer Lt. Ryan Derespain would not disclose where officers were deployed or what procedures they took part in. The ACSO issued a curfew order for the entire county on June 1 at 8 p.m.

More about this story appears on page 9.

Mayor Pens Latest Message: A crisis within a crisis

Marilyn Ezy Ashcraft

We are in the midst of a crisis within a crisis — the COVID-19 pandemic and the moral outrage unleashed by the horrendous, senseless death of George Floyd. Former President Barack Obama eloquently described this moment in time:

"It's natural to wish for life to just get back to normal" as a pandemic and economic crisis upend everything around us. But we have to remember that for millions of Americans, being treated differently on account of race is tragically, painfully, maddeningly "normal" — whether it's while dealing with the health-care system, or interacting with the criminal justice system, jogging down the street or just watching birds in a park.

This shouldn't be "normal" in 2020 America. It can't be. If we want our children to grow up in a nation that lives up to its highest ideals, we can and must be better.

It will fall mainly on the officials of Minnesota to ensure that the

circumstances surrounding George Floyd's death are investigated thoroughly and that justice is ultimately done. But it falls on all of us, regardless of our race or station — including the majority of men and women in law enforcement who take pride in doing their tough job the right way, every day — to work together to create a "new normal" in which the legacy of bigotry and unequal treatment no longer infects our institutions or our hearts."

Here in Alameda, I believe we all have a role to play to help create a more just society. I am grateful to the brave men and women of the Alameda Police Department (APD), led by Police Chief Paul Rollerli, who takes pride in doing their tough job the right way, every day.

Last week Rollerli joined my Mayor's COVID-19 Town Hall for a candid discussion. He answered questions about APD policies governing use of force and body-worn cameras, and the crisis interven-

tion training and training to recognize implicit bias that all officers receive. To view this and other previous Town Halls, visit www.alamedaca.gov/covidvideos.

As your mayor, the safety of our community is my highest priority, and the highest priority of the entire City Council. We are devastated by the circumstances of George Floyd's death. We absolutely support the right for people to protest and will do everything we can to facilitate that effort. However, we will not tolerate opportunistic looting or violence.

In response to incidents of rioting and looting, the Alameda County Sheriff, on June 1, ordered a countywide curfew from 8 p.m. to 5 a.m. which requires all non-exempted persons to remain indoors during these hours. Exempted from the order are first responders, health-care providers, people going to and from work, members of the

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Congrats to 2020 Grads

Photo & story by Maurice Ramirez

Encinal High School graduates including Danielle Payopay, left, celebrated their graduation at Alameda Theater on May 26. The *Alameda Sun* is planning a graduation special edition to be mailed to every address in town later this month. To advertise, call (510) 263-1824.

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