



PRESS RELEASE

City of Los Alamitos
Contact: Matthew Lightner, Management Analyst
(562) 431 – 3538
Released 06/11/2024

REPAIRS START TO FIX A GAS LEAK

Los Alamitos, CA – May 27, 2024, a gas leak occurred at the Los Alamitos Police Department. Thankfully, no injuries were reported. The gas company assessed the situation and determined that repairs would cost over \$70,000. City Staff called an emergency meeting of the City Council to declare an emergency situation and authorize expedited procurement of services to resolve the issue.

“The current city charter does not enable our city manager to respond quickly to situations like this that can require significant expenditures to quickly solve a problem. It is an issue we are looking into so we can remain nimble and operational for our community,” said Mayor Jordan Nefulda.

While most cities handle emergency repair circumstances through emergency powers, Los Alamitos faces unique challenges due to its City Charter. The City Charter requires a quorum to declare an emergency for repairs exceeding \$10,000 for Public Works projects. Without an emergency declaration, a formal Request for Proposal (RFP) process would be required, adding months to the procurement process.

“We are fortunate that our City Council was in town and readily available to meet to take action on this authorization,” said City Manager Chet Simmons.

The current city charter-defined public works procurement requirements were established in 1960 and the dollar threshold was established then, too. After decades of inflation the \$10,000 threshold is equivalent to over \$100,000 in today’s dollar. The City Council is committed to considering modernizing the City Charter to address these restrictions while adhering to transparency and fiscal sustainability.

For further information or updates, please contact the City Manager’s office at 562-431-3538.

###