

# Daily Pilot

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Photos by Kevin Chang | Staff Photographer

**VOLUNTEER KELLY EVANS**, right, directs traffic during a drive-through giveaway at IKEA in Costa Mesa, where 1,200 low-income families received emergency food boxes filled with essential staples such as rice, beans, pasta and fresh produce on Thursday.

## 'How are we going to feed Costa Mesa?' Community members give supplies to 1,200 families

BY FAITH E. PINHO

Bag of onions, in. A box of clinking canned goods. Bananas, pineapples, a big juicy watermelon.

Load it up, close the trunk, onto the next.

That was the routine 1,200 times Thursday morning as volunteers loaded supplies into the cars of needy families under the blazing sun outside the Costa Mesa IKEA store.

Starting before 9 a.m., cars snaked through the store's two parking lots, lining up behind the 14-tent stations where volunteers gathered in not-so-socially distant groups to hand out the supplies from the Community Action Partnership of Orange County food bank.

"This comes with some risk — you're around people," said Andrea Marr, the Costa Mesa councilwoman who helped spearhead the distribution.

"We're not able to stand six feet apart as we're loading the truck. But these are people who think the need is important and they're willing to help."

"I was just so excited to get out of my house and do something I felt was useful," she added.

Marr, her colleague on the council, Arlis Reynolds, and Costa Mesa community organizer Anais Tangie first began



**VOLUNTEERS KYLE DORNHOFER**, left, and Jackie Farr organize food packages at IKEA.



**HUNDREDS OF** vehicles line up at IKEA in Costa Mesa, where 1,200 low-income families received emergency food boxes.

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## H.B. establishes payment deferral program, economic recovery task force and emergency shelter agreement

BY JULIA SCLAFANI

As the city staff rolls out emergency plans to counter the impacts of COVID-19, the Huntington Beach City Council adopted numerous measures Monday that will establish economic and social safeguards for residents and businesses.

An economic recovery task

force introduced by Mayor Lyn Semeta was adopted with unanimous support.

"The emergence of the coronavirus pandemic has triggered profound and lasting economic impacts worldwide," Semeta said, introducing her item. "The impacts of these shutdowns are seen in massive employee layoffs, permanent business closures and disruptions

to education, medical care, and other key sectors. Huntington Beach's local economies are experiencing significant financial strain and there's a need to develop and implement a definitive plan to support economic stabilization, recovery and resiliency during and after the COVID-19 pandemic."

The task force will "develop

and recommend a plan to help the local economy cope with a sudden loss in business and jobs," she said.

"I think there's a lot of interest in doing this. People want the economy to open up sooner rather than later. And this task force I think could be very helpful in that discussion

See **H.B.**, page A4

## County public health leader to retire

Amid COVID-19 pandemic, David Souleles says he will step down on May 1 after 16 years with the agency, it was announced Thursday.

BY HILLARY DAVIS

One of the most public faces of the Orange County Health Care Agency is stepping down amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Deputy director of public health services David Souleles will retire May 1, the county announced Thursday.

Souleles, who has worked for OC public health for 16 years, has been one of the most forward-facing leaders from the department during the pandemic along with county health officer Dr. Nichole Quick.

He frequently gives updates to the Board of Supervisors and this week he unveiled a wider network of public clinics to test for COVID-19, the disease caused by the virus.

Souleles' departure comes about a month after top agency director Richard Sanchez stepped down to become the interim chief executive at CalOptima, which provides coverage and programs for low-income earners and people with disabilities.

County CEO Frank Kim said he was saddened to see Souleles go but he was confident that other agency staffers will be able to effectively manage the county's response to the current health crisis.

"While we will all miss having David work with us and the dedication and his expertise, at the healthcare agency we are 2,700 employees strong and we have an incredible bench filled with our operational managers and other executives

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## ALSO FROM THE DAILY PILOT:



Courtesy of Sunmerry Bakery

**SUNMERRY BAKERY DEBUTS 'TOILET PAPER' CAKE TO SHOW YOUR LOVED ONES THAT THEY'RE ESSENTIAL**

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**COMMENTARY: IT'S TIME TO REOPEN ORANGE COUNTY** PAGE A3

## PRO FOOTBALL

## Virtual NFL Draft to determine next Mr. Irrelevant

BY ANDREW TURNER

The National Football League can dominate headlines when the sports world is running on all cylinders.

With sports mired in a shutdown due to the coronavirus, fans will no doubt flock to 2020 NFL Draft coverage, looking to quench their thirst for a live event.

Instead of boats transporting players to a stage on the water in front of the fountains of the Bellagio in Las Vegas, the intended location of the draft, it is taking place virtually, with commissioner Roger Goodell announcing first-round picks from New York on Thursday night.

The NFL Draft runs through Saturday on ABC, ESPN and NFL Net-

work. The first-round selections were made on Thursday. The second and third rounds will take place Friday, and the draft will conclude with the final four rounds on Saturday.

There is a group that can hardly wait for the final pick of the draft. When it is made, the selected player will become the 45th member of the Mr. Irrelevant fraternity. Caleb Wilson, a tight end out of UCLA who was drafted by the Arizona Cardinals, became the 44th member last year.

While names like Joe Burrow (LSU), Tua Tagovailoa (Alabama), Justin Herbert (Oregon) and Chase Young (Ohio State) generate buzz at the top of this year's draft board,

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**PAUL SALATA**, left, with Melanie and Ed Fitch prepare for the NFL Draft and Mr. Irrelevant.

Scott Smeltzer  
Staff Photographer