

CITY OF WESTMINSTER
RESOLUTION NO. XXXX

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WESTMINSTER, CALIFORNIA, RATIFYING PROCLAMATION NO. 2026-01 DECLARING THE EXISTENCE OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY ARISING FROM THE HAZARDOUS CHEMICAL INCIDENT AT 12122 WESTERN AVENUE, GARDEN GROVE, AND AUTHORIZING EMERGENCY PROTECTIVE ACTIONS

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WESTMINSTER DOES HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

WHEREAS, on Thursday, May 21, 2026, at approximately 3:30 p.m., a 34,000-gallon storage tank containing methyl methacrylate overheated at a GKN aerospace facility located at 12122 Western Avenue, Garden Grove, California (the “Western Incident”); and

WHEREAS, methyl methacrylate is a volatile and flammable industrial chemical used to produce acrylic plastic components for the aerospace industry, and

WHEREAS, on the evening of Thursday, May 21, 2026, evacuation orders were issued for areas bounded by the following: North of Garden Grove Blvd., South of Orangewood Ave., East of Knott Ave., West of Dale St.; and

WHEREAS, those evacuation orders were initially lifted on the evening of Thursday, May 21, 2026, after hours of cooling efforts, but were reinstated on the morning of Friday May 22, 2026; and

WHEREAS, on Friday, May 22, 2026, there was risk of explosion and fire leading to major damage to surrounding properties and possible contamination of the local air quality at levels hazardous to humans, animals, and other living organisms; and

WHEREAS, as crews continued monitoring chemical readings, the evacuation zone was subsequently expanded on or around 11:15 a.m., and evacuation orders were issued for the areas bounded by Ball Road to the north, Bolsa Chica/Valley View to the west, Dale Street to the east, and Trask Avenue to the south; and

WHEREAS, the newly established evacuation zone included the north side and parts of the west side of Westminster; and

WHEREAS, now the risk of explosion is no longer the main threat and there remains the risk of a leak and fire and/or contamination of the local air quality at level hazardous to humans, and animals, and other living organisms; and

WHEREAS, evacuation orders were previously applicable to areas bounded by Ball Road to the north, Bolsa Chica/Valley View to the west, Dale Street to the east, and Trask Avenue to the south (the “Evacuation Area”), and such orders were lifted for portions of the Evacuation Area on May 25, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the City of Westminster activated its emergency operations center on Friday, May 22, 2026; and

WHEREAS, area school campuses have been closed and outdoor activities at adjacent schools canceled as emergency crews have engaged in containment efforts, and care and reception centers have been established at the Westminster Senior Center, 8200 Westminster Blvd., Westminster; and

WHEREAS, thousands of people within Westminster have been displaced; and

WHEREAS, the City of Westminster lies in immediate proximity to the affected area, and the health, safety, and welfare of Westminster residents, businesses, schools, and public infrastructure are threatened by the ongoing hazardous materials incident including the risk of chemical release; and

WHEREAS, Westminster Municipal Code Section 2.48.060.A empowers the City Manager, as the Director of Emergency Services for the City of Westminster Emergency Services Council, to declare the existence or threatened existence of a local emergency when the City is affected or likely to be affected by a public calamity; and

WHEREAS, on Friday, May 22, at 3:42 p.m., the City Manager, acting in her role as the Director of Emergency Services, issued Proclamation No. 2026-01 to declare a local emergency arising from the hazardous chemical incident; and

WHEREAS, a copy of Proclamation No. 2026-01 is attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference; and

WHEREAS, Westminster Municipal Code 2.48.060 establishes that the City Council “shall take action to ratify the proclamation within seven days thereafter or the proclamation shall have no further force or effect”; and

WHEREAS, a local emergency may be proclaimed if the City is threatened by conditions of disaster or extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the City that are likely to be beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of the City; and

WHEREAS, Westminster Municipal Code 2.48.020 defines “emergency” as “the actual or threatened existence of conditions of disaster or of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the city caused by such conditions as air pollution, fire, ... or other conditions ... which conditions are or are likely to be beyond the control of the

services, personnel, equipment and facilities of this city requiring the combined forces of other political subdivisions to combat”; and

WHEREAS, on May 23, 2026, Governor Newsom declared a state of Emergency pursuant to Government Code section 8558(b); and

WHEREAS, on May 25, 2026, President Trump issued a Presidential Emergency Declaration regarding this incident.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED by the City Council of the City of Westminster as follows:

- A. The City Manager’s Proclamation of Local Emergency No. 2026-01 dated May 22, 2026 is hereby ratified.
- B. As contemplated in the Emergency Services Act contained in Government Code Section 8550 et seq., including Section 8558(c), and Section 2.48.020 of the Westminster Municipal Code, for all of the above reasons, it is hereby determined that a local emergency exists based on the existence of conditions of disaster or of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property caused by the risks of air pollution, fire, and explosions, which conditions are beyond the ability of the city’s services, personnel, equipment and facilities, without the combined forces of other political subdivisions to combat;
- C. The area of the City which is endangered/imperiled is the entire City, but the areas of increased risk are those within the Evacuation Area.
- D. During the existence of this local emergency, the powers, functions, and duties of the emergency organization of this City shall be those prescribed by state law and by ordinances, resolutions, and orders of this City, including but not limited to the City of Westminster emergency response plan and Chapter 2.48 of the Westminster Municipal Code.
- E. Consistent with Government Code 8630 et seq., the City Council shall review the need for continuing the local emergency at least once every 60 days until the City Council terminates the local emergency and the City Council shall proclaim the termination of the local emergency at the earliest possible date that conditions warrant.
- F. That a copy of this proclamation be forwarded to the Director of California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services requesting that the Director find it acceptable in accordance with State Law; that the Governor waive regulations that may hinder response and recovery efforts, that recovery assistance be made available under the California Disaster Assistance Act;

and that the State expedite access to State and Federal resources and any other appropriate federal disaster relief programs.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 27th day of May 2026 by the following vote:

AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS:
NOES: COUNCIL MEMBERS:
ABSENT: COUNCIL MEMBERS:

CITY OF WESTMINSTER

CHI CHARLIE NGUYEN
MAYOR

ATTEST:

SANDRA ESCUDERO
INTERIM CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

SCOTT E. PORTER, CITY ATTORNEY

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF ORANGE) ss.
CITY OF WESTMINSTER)

I, SANDRA ESCUDERO, hereby certify that I am the duly appointed Interim City Clerk of the City of Westminster and that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted at a special meeting of the City Council of the City of Westminster held on the 27th day of May 2027.

Sandra Escudero, Interim City Clerk