

**RESOLUTION CONFIRMING MAYOR'S MARCH 19, 2020  
AND MARCH 24, 2020 FIRST AMENDED  
DECLARATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY**

WHEREAS, on March 19, 2020, the Mayor issued a Declaration of Local Emergency pursuant to Section 3-3003 of the City's Emergency and Disaster Management Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, on March 24, 2020, the Mayor issued a First Amended Declaration of Local Emergency pursuant to Section 3-3003 of the City's Emergency and Disaster Management Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, Section 3-3003 requires that any such declaration must be confirmed by resolution of the City Council at either a specially called meeting or the Council's next regularly scheduled meeting; and

WHEREAS, such resolution must include the reasons for, anticipated impacts on, actions proposed to be taken, and other pertinent data related to the emergency giving rise to the declaration; and

WHEREAS, the Aldermen and Alderwomen of the City of Savannah agree with the Mayor that issuance of a Declaration of Local Emergency, as Amended on March 24<sup>th</sup> was appropriate and wish hereby to affirm and ratify the Declaration.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor's March 19, 2020 Declaration of Local Emergency, as amended on March 24, 2020 is HEREBY CONFIRMED. In support hereof, the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Savannah find as follows:

1. It is believed that sometime in late November or early December, residents of China's Wuhan Province began exhibiting symptoms of a serious viral infection, which has been identified as COVID-19, a highly communicable disease that may cause severe respiratory distress and death, particularly among certain vulnerable segments of the population.

2. Since the initial outbreak in China, COVID-19 has spread throughout the world at a rapid pace, to include numerous instances of infection (and death) within the United States.

3. On March 2, 2020, the first two presumptively confirmed cases of COVID-19 infection appeared in Georgia, a number which has continued to grow as the disease appears to spread across Georgia's counties.

4. On March 11, 2020 the World Health Organization ("WHO") declared the COVID-19 virus outbreak a pandemic, signaling its anticipated spread to all countries on the globe.

5. WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus reports that WHO "expect[s] to see the number of cases, the number of deaths, and the number of affected countries climb even higher."

6. As of March 11, 2020, 114 countries have reported that 118,000 have contracted COVID-19 and nearly 4,300 have died from the virus.

7. As of March 19, 2020, the United States has reported 10,442 COVID-19 infections and 150 deaths.

8. As of March 19, 2020, Georgia reported 287 cases of COVID-19 infection and 10 associated deaths, which include 2 in nearby Glynn County, signaling the rapid approach of the disease towards the City of Savannah.

9. Local governments throughout the country, including Atlanta, Georgia, have implemented emergency measures to stem the rapid spread of COVID-19.

10. Since March 19<sup>th</sup>, the disease has continued to spread throughout Georgia including 7 confirmed positive cases in Chatham with certainly more to come.

11. It appears measures are required beyond the scope of the Mayor's March 19<sup>th</sup> Declaration of Local Emergency to slow the spread of COVID-19 to the maximum extent possible, while enabling essential services to continue.

12. To prevent or minimize injury to people, certain actions are required.

The Mayor and Aldermen further find that the following actions directed by the Mayor in his Declaration, as amended, are appropriate and hereby **RATIFIED**:

1. That the City Manager shall activate emergency operations plans implicated by this Order; and

2. As determined by the City Manager, to the extent possible, City employees should begin teleworking remotely from home.

3. The Revenue Office may administratively process the issuance of licenses to sell or dispense alcoholic beverages where there is no change in ownership and the license is essentially being transferred to a new on-site manager; provided, however, the Mayor and Aldermen shall be provided with notice of all such transfers and they shall be ratified at the first City Council meeting following expiration of this Declaration or any extension thereof.

4. Funerals consisting of more than 10 mourners are encouraged to conduct graveside services only or postpone to a future date;

5. That all sightseeing, guided, and/or narrated tours shall cease;

6. All metered and garage parking shall be free for the first hour;

7. All individuals currently living within the City of Savannah shall shelter at their place of residence. To the extent individuals are using shared or outdoor spaces, they must at all

times as reasonably possible maintain social distancing of at least six feet from any other person when they are outside their residence. All persons may leave their residences only for Essential Activities, Essential Governmental Functions, or to operate Essential Businesses as defined herein. Individuals experiencing homelessness are exempt from this Section, but are strongly encouraged to obtain shelter, and entities offering shelter services are urged to make it available as soon as possible and to the maximum extent practicable (and to use COVID-19 risk mitigation practices in their operation).

8. All businesses with a facility in the City, except Essential Businesses as defined herein, are required to cease all activities at facilities located within the City except Minimum Basic Operations, as defined herein. For clarity, businesses may also continue operations consisting exclusively for employees or contractors performing activities at their own residences (*i.e.*, working from home). To the greatest extent feasible, Essential Businesses shall comply with Social Distancing Requirements as defined herein, including by maintaining six-foot social distancing for both employees and members of the public, including, but not limited to, when any customers are standing in line.

9. All public and private gatherings of any number of people occurring outside a single household or living unit are prohibited, except for the limited purposes as expressly permitted in this Resolution. Nothing in this Resolution prohibits the gathering of members of a household or living unit.

10. All travel, including but not limited to, travel on foot, bicycle, scooter, motorcycle, automobile, or public transit, except Essential Travel and Essential Activities as defined below, is prohibited. People must use public transit only for purposes of performing Essential Activities or to travel to and from work to operate Essential Businesses or maintain Essential Governmental Functions. People riding on public transit must comply with Social Distancing Requirements as defined below, to the greatest extent feasible. This Resolution allows travel into or out of the City to perform Essential Activities, operate Essential Businesses, or maintain Essential Governmental Functions.

11. For purposes of this Resolution, individuals may leave their residence only to perform any of the following Essential Activities. But people at high risk of severe illness from COVID-19 and people who are sick are urged to stay in their residence, consistent with Governor's Kemp's Executive Order, to the extent possible except as necessary to seek medical care.

- a) To engage in activities or perform tasks essential to their health and safety, or to the health and safety of their family or household members (including, but not limited to, pets), such as, by way of example only and without limitation, obtaining medical supplies or medication, visiting a health care professional, or obtaining supplies they need to work from home.
- b) To obtain necessary services or supplies for themselves and their family or household members, or to deliver those services or supplies to others, such as, by way of example only and without limitation, canned food, dry goods, fresh fruits and vegetables, pet supplies, fresh meats, fish, and poultry, and

any other household consumer products, and products necessary to maintain the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences.

- c) To engage in outdoor activity, provided the individuals comply with Social Distancing Requirements as defined herein, such as, by way of example and without limitation, walking, hiking, or running.
- d) To perform work providing essential products and services at an Essential Business or to otherwise carry out activities specifically permitted in this Resolution, including Minimum Basic Operations.
- e) To care for a family member or pet in another household.

12. For purposes of this Resolution, individuals may leave their residence to work for or obtain services at any Healthcare Operations including hospitals, clinics, dentists, pharmacies, pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, other healthcare facilities, healthcare suppliers, home healthcare services providers, mental health providers, or any related and/or ancillary healthcare services. Healthcare Operations also includes veterinary care and all healthcare services provided to animals. This exemption shall be broadly construed to avoid any impacts to the delivery of healthcare, broadly defined. Healthcare Operations does not include fitness and exercise gyms and similar facilities.

13. For purposes of this Resolution, individuals may leave their residence to provide any services or perform any work necessary to the operations of maintenance of “Essential Infrastructure,” including, but not limited to, public works construction, construction of housing (in particular affordable housing or housing for individuals experiencing homelessness), airport operations, water, sewer, gas, electrical, oil refining, roads and highways, public transportation, solid waste collection and removal, internet and telecommunications systems (including the provision of essential global, national, and local infrastructure for computing services, business infrastructure, communications, and web-based services), provided that they carry out those services or that work in compliance with Social Distancing Requirements as defined herein, to the extent possible.

14. For purposes of this Resolution, all first responders, emergency management personnel, emergency dispatchers, court personnel, and law enforcement personnel, and others working for or to support Essential Businesses are categorically exempt from this Resolution. Further, nothing in this Resolution shall prohibit any individual from performing or accessing Essential Governmental Functions. Essential Governmental Functions means all services needed to ensure the continuing operation of the government agencies and provide for the health, safety, and welfare of the public. All Essential Governmental Functions shall be performed in compliance with Social Distancing Requirements as defined herein, to the extent possible.

15. For purposes of this Resolution, Essential Businesses means:

- (a) Healthcare Operations and Essential Infrastructure;

- (b) Grocery stores, liquor stores, certified farmers' markets, farm and produce stands, supermarkets, food banks, convenience stores, and other establishments engaged in the retail sale of canned food, dry goods, fresh fruits and vegetables, pet supplies, fresh meats, fish, and poultry, and any other household consumer products (such as cleaning and personal care products). Household consumer products specifically excludes vape products. This includes stores that sell groceries and also sell other non-grocery products, and products necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences;
- (c) Food cultivation, including farming, livestock, and fishing;
- (d) Businesses that provide food, shelter, and social services, and other necessities of life for economically disadvantaged or otherwise needy individuals;
- (e) Newspapers, television, radio, and other media services;
- (f) Gas stations, auto-supply, auto-repair, collision centers and related facilities, which includes automobile dealers service departments only;
- (g) Banks and related financial institutions;
- (h) Hardware and home supply stores;
- (i) Plumbers, electricians, exterminators, and other service providers who provide services that are necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences, Essential Activities, and Essential Businesses;
- (k) Businesses providing mailing and shipping services, including post office boxes;
- (l) Educational institutions—including public and private K-12 schools, colleges, and universities—for purposes of facilitating distance learning or performing essential functions, provided that social distancing of six-feet per person is maintained to the greatest extent possible;
- (m) Laundromats, dry cleaners, and laundry service providers;
- (n) Restaurants and other facilities that prepare and serve food, but only for delivery or carry out, which may include the sale of packaged beer and wine in their original, sealed containers for consumption beyond the licensed seller's premises. Schools and other entities that typically provide free food services to students or members of the public may continue to do so under this Order on the condition that the food is provided to students or members

of the public on a pick-up and take-away basis only. Schools and other entities that provide food services under this exemption shall not permit the food to be eaten at the site where it is provided, or at any other gathering site on school premises;

- (o) Businesses that supply products needed for people to work from home;
- (p) Businesses that supply other essential businesses with the support or supplies necessary to operate;
- (q) Businesses that ship or deliver groceries, food, goods, or services directly to residences;
- (r) Airlines, taxis, and other private transportation providers providing transportation services necessary for Essential Activities and other purposes expressly authorized in this Order;
- (s) Home-based care for seniors, adults, or children;
- (t) Residential facilities and shelters for seniors, adults, and children;
- (u) Professional services, such as legal or accounting services, when necessary to assist in compliance with legally mandated activities;
- (v) Childcare facilities providing services that enable employees exempted in this Order to work are permitted. To the extent possible, childcare facilities must operate under the following mandatory conditions:
  - (1) Childcare must be carried out in stable groups of 12 or fewer (“stable” means that the same 12 or fewer children are in the same group each day).
  - (2) Children shall not change from one group to another.
  - (3) If more than one group of children is cared for at one facility, each group shall be in a separate room. Groups shall not mix with each other.
  - (4) Childcare providers shall remain solely with one group of children;
- (w) Critical Infrastructure Sectors, as set forth at <https://www.cisa.gov/critical-infrastructure-sectors>, which is hereby incorporated by reference herein;
- (x) Any private construction project for which a valid permit has been issued as of the date of signing of the 1<sup>st</sup> Amended Declaration shall be allowed to continue;

- (y) Pawn shops and title pawn companies;
- (z) Companies that provide landscaping services;
- (aa) Residential moving/home relocation services; and
- (bb) Businesses offering certain real property services, as follows:
  - (1) Maintenance services;
  - (2) Residential rental providers; and
  - (3) Real estate professionals engaged in work associated with contracts of sale to the extent the real estate transfer process is currently in process.
  - (4) Any other work associated with real estate services shall be performed remotely.

16. For purposes of this Resolution, Minimum Basic Operations include the following, provided that employees comply with Social Distancing Requirements as defined herein, to the extent possible, while carrying out such operations:

- (a) The minimum necessary to maintain the value of the business's inventory, ensure security, process payroll and employee benefits, or for related functions.
- (b) The minimum necessary activities to facilitate employees of the business being able to continue to work remotely from their residences.

17. For purposes of this Resolution, Essential Travel includes travel for any of the following purposes. Individuals engaged in any Essential Travel must comply with all Social Distancing Requirements, as defined herein.

- (a) Any travel related to the provision of or access to Essential Activities, Essential Governmental Functions, Essential Businesses, or Minimum Basic Operations.
- (b) Travel to care for elderly, minors, dependents, persons with disabilities, or other vulnerable persons.
- (c) Travel to or from educational institutions for purposes of receiving materials for distance learning, for receiving meals, and any other related services.
- (d) Travel to return to a place of residence from outside the jurisdiction.

- (e) Travel required by law enforcement or court order.
- (f) Travel required for non-residents to return to their places of residence outside the City. Individuals are strongly encouraged to verify that their transportation out of the City remains available and functional prior to commencing such travel.

18. For purposes of this Resolution, residences include hotels, motels, shared rental units, and similar facilities.

19. For purposes of this Resolution, Social Distancing Requirements includes maintaining at least 6-foot social distancing from other individuals, washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds as frequently as possible or using hand sanitizer, covering coughs or sneezes (into the sleeve or elbow, not hands), regularly cleaning high-touch surfaces, and not shaking hands.

20. Open air City parks and squares shall remain open; provided, however, Social Distancing Requirements are followed to the greatest extent possible. Savannah's residents are permitted and encouraged to bicycle, with the intention of promoting mental and physical well-being. To that end, bicycle repair facilities may remain open; however, sales must cease during the pendency hereof.

21. Public swimming pools, playgrounds, playing fields, basketball courts, and tennis courts shall be closed.

22. Barber shops, beauty parlors, and personal care salons may remain open until Friday, March 27, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

23. To the extent not superseded by the First Amended Declaration, the Emergency Declaration of March 19, 2020 remains in effect and is hereby extended until 12:00 a.m. on April 8, 2020 unless otherwise amended, extended, or cancelled by the Mayor.

24. The Mayor and Aldermen hereby DIRECT and AUTHORIZE the City Manager to undertake all steps necessary to carry out the Mayor's Declaration, as amended, as may be appropriate.

25. Any person found to be in violation of the Declaration or First Amended Declaration shall be subject to citation to Recorder's Court and penalty as set forth in City Code Section 1-1013.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED this 26<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020.



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Van R. Johnson II  
Mayor, City of Savannah

ATTEST:

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Mark Massey  
Clerk of Council