

## DECLARATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, 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; and

WHEREAS, 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; and

WHEREAS, 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; and

WHEREAS, 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; and

WHEREAS, 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"; and

WHEREAS, since March 11, 2020, incidents of infection in the United States and, in particular the state of Georgia, have grown exponentially; and

WHEREAS, as of March 19, 2020, the United States has reported 10,442 COVID-19 infections and 150 deaths; and

WHEREAS, 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; and

WHEREAS, local governments throughout the country, including Atlanta, Georgia, have implemented emergency measures to stem the rapid spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the City of Savannah anticipates the disease will continue to spread, perpetuating a public health crisis thereby necessitating implementation of certain emergency measures designed to halt the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, in the judgment of the Mayor of the City of Savannah, with advice from the City Manager and other subject matter experts, emergency conditions exist within the City requiring extraordinary and immediate corrective actions for the protection of the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the City of Savannah; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority vested in me by local and state law;

IT IS HEREBY DECLARED that a local state of emergency exists and shall continue until the conditions requiring this Declaration are abated.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED:

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.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, WITHIN THE TERRITORIAL JURISDICTIONAL LIMITS OF THE CITY OF SAVANNAH:

3. That all bars and nightclubs, which do not serve food, shall be closed;
4. That all gyms and fitness centers, movie theaters, live performance venues, bowling alleys, and arcades shall be closed;
5. That restaurants and other eating and drinking establishments where food is served SHALL REDUCE SEATING CAPACITY BY 50% for dine-in services and may continue preparing and offering food and drink to customers via delivery service, drive-through, or take-out; provided, however, that cafeterias in hospitals, nursing homes, hospice centers, or similar facilities shall not be subject to these restrictions and may continue normal operations;
6. Funerals consisting of more than 10 mourners are encouraged to conduct graveside services only or postpone to a future date;
7. That all sightseeing, guided, and/or narrated tours shall cease;
8. All metered and garage parking shall be free for the first hour;
9. This Declaration shall take effect 8:00 am on Saturday, March 21, 2020.
10. This Declaration shall expire on April 5, 2020 unless otherwise amended, extended, or cancelled by the Mayor.

[remainder of page intentionally left blank]

SO DECLARED AND ENTERED at 4:49 p.m. on this 19<sup>th</sup> day of March 2020.

May God BLESS Savannah

Van R. Johnson II  
Mayor, City of Savannah

Attested to by:  
Mark Massey, Clerk of Council

