

## DECLARATION OF LOCAL DISASTER RELATED TO CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19)

**WHEREAS**, the United States Federal Government has declared a national emergency and the State of Texas has declared a statewide public health disaster as a result of the COVID-19 Coronavirus; and

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19 continues to spread and to pose an increasing, imminent threat of disaster throughout Texas; and

**WHEREAS**, the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has advised that person-to-person contact heightens the risk of COVID-19 transmission; and

**WHEREAS**, the Texas Department of State Health Services has now determined that, as of March 19, 2020, COVID-19 represents a public health disaster within the meaning of Chapter 81 of the Texas Health and Safety Code; and

**WHEREAS**, the Texas Government Code Chapter 418 gives the Mayor the power to declare a local disaster within the City of Lexington "if the threat is imminent"; and

**WHEREAS**, the magnitude of the potential damage and the rapidity with which the COVID-19 Coronavirus is spreading constitute an imminent threat of disaster; and

**WHEREAS**, the declaration of such a disaster authorizes the imposition of controls on activities which tend to increase the likelihood of injury to the public; and

**WHEREAS**, such controls, once implemented, have the potential of protecting lives and property by mitigating the threat of a potential spread of the COVID-19 Coronavirus; and

**WHEREAS**, a local disaster declaration expires seven days after its issuance, unless the City Council consents to its renewal or continuance;

**BE IT THEREFORE PROCLAIMED** that I, Allen Retzlaff, Mayor of the City of Lexington, declare a local state of disaster based on the threat of spreading of the COVID-19 Coronavirus in Lexington, Texas, based on the status of COVID-19 in Texas and the recommendations of the CDC:

Order No.1

In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, every person in Lexington, Texas **shall avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10 people.**

- Order No. 2            In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, people shall avoid eating or drinking at bars, restaurants, and food courts, or visiting gyms or massage parlors; provided, however, that the use of drive-thru, pickup, or delivery options is allowed and highly encouraged throughout the limited duration of this order.
- Order No. 3            In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, people shall not visit nursing homes or retirement or long-term care facilities unless to provide critical assistance.
- Order No. 4            In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, schools shall temporarily close.

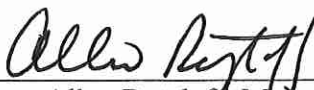
This order does not prohibit people from visiting of places, including grocery stores, gas stations, parks, and banks, so long as the necessary precautions are maintained to reduce the transmission of COVID-19. **All critical infrastructure will remain operational, domestic travel will remain unrestricted, and government entities and businesses will continue providing essential services.** For offices and workplaces that remain open, employees should practice good hygiene and, where feasible, work from home in order to achieve optimum isolation from COVID-19. The more that people reduce their public contact, the sooner COVID-19 will be contained and the sooner this order will expire.

**BE IT ALSO PROCLAIMED** that this state of disaster will continue until rescinded in accordance with the above cited statute, but in no instance will this declaration continue for more than seven days without being authorized by the City Council of the City of Lexington, Texas.

**BE IT ALSO PROCLAIMED** that a violation of this Disaster Declaration may be punishable by a fine not to exceed \$1,000 or confinement in jail for a term not to exceed 180 days, whichever is greater.

This declaration shall be promptly publicized and filed with the City Secretary and the State of Texas.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I affix my signature this 20<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020.

  
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Hon. Allen Retzlaff, Mayor  
City of Lexington, Texas

Filed with the City Secretary on 20<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020.



