

Introduced by _____ Council Bill No. R 46-20

A RESOLUTION

supporting the declaration of a state of emergency within the City; calling for proactive measures to protect the public health, safety and welfare; expressing support for and calling upon the City Manager and Director of Public Health to enact regulations to protect the public health, safety and welfare.

WHEREAS, the first reported case of the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) occurred in the United States on January 24, 2020 with the first death occurring on February 28, 2020; and

WHEREAS, as of March 16, 2020 at 4:00 pm the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) confirmed a total of 3487 cases of COVID-19 in the United States, including 68 deaths and impacting 49 states, District of Columbia Puerto Rico, Guam and US Virgin Islands; and

WHEREAS, as of March 15, 2020 the World Health Organization Situation Report 55 confirmed a total of 153,519 cases of COVID-19, including 5735 deaths, and the spread of the virus to nine new countries/territories/areas from the prior 24 hour reporting period; and

WHEREAS, the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services and the State Emergency Management Agency have reported there are confirmed cases of COVID-19 within the State of Missouri with the first case identified on March 7, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization officially declared a pandemic due to COVID-19 on March 11, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to section 201 of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1621), on March 13, 2020 the President of the United States exercised Presidential authority to declare that the outbreak of COVID-19 in the United States constitutes a national emergency; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020 Governor Mike Parson signed Executive Order 20-02 declaring a state of emergency in Missouri in response to (COVID-19) and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 results in mild to severe symptoms, including death, is highly contagious, and is spread through close contact between persons and respiratory transmission; and

WHEREAS, the community spread of cases of COVID-19 in the United States poses a serious health risk for Columbia residents and visitors and identification of additional cases in Missouri and within the City of Columbia is likely to continue, and extraordinary measures are necessary to prevent a substantial risk to public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to express its support for the City Manager and Director of Public Health for proactive invocation of the emergency measures authorized under State law and the Columbia City Code to ensure the protection of the safety and welfare of the citizens of the City of Columbia;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA, MISSOURI AS FOLLOWS:

THAT, due to COVID-19 an emergency exists within the City of Columbia, Missouri. This emergency has an increased impact on our community, small to large businesses, people experiencing homelessness, and city services and the response to this emergency will require the use of all city resources and the need to access State and Federal resources and financial mechanisms which is hereby supported by the City Council;

FURTHER THAT, the City Council finds extraordinary proactive measures by the City Manager and Director of Public Health are necessary to prevent death or injury of persons and to protect the public peace, safety and welfare, and alleviate damage, loss, hardship or suffering;

FURTHER THAT, the City Council expresses its support and calls upon the City Manager and Director of Public Health to enact and enforce temporary emergency regulations deemed advisable or necessary to minimize exposure risk to COVID-19 and protect the health and safety of persons in the City, including but not limited to:

- Prohibiting the congregation or gathering of more than 50 people;
- Prohibiting all gatherings of more than 10 people for individuals who are at higher risk for severe illness, such as seniors (including gatherings at retirement and assisted living facilities);
- Limiting all businesses and places of public accommodation to one-half the legal occupancy of any such buildings or locations utilized or a maximum of 50 people (including staff located on the premises), whichever is less. This includes, but is not limited to, all bars, restaurants, meeting halls, places of worship, etc.;
- Strongly encouraging the cancelation of any event or gathering in excess of 25 people, regardless of whether such event is public or private;

- Encouraging any small event or gathering which continues to be held by the organizer to adopt additional social distancing modifications for participants;
- Prohibiting all concerts, conferences and sporting events;
- Suspending in person classes of all schools and colleges while continuing essential operations for such institutions;
- Closing all gyms, movie theaters, libraries and community centers;
- Strongly encouraging employers to require employees to work remotely;
- Leading by example by canceling all public events of any size;
- Requiring all city employees to work remotely to the extent possible;
- Taking actions to enforce any health recommendations from federal and state authorities;
- Restricting public and private assemblies within the city based upon CDC recommended guidelines and orders of the Director of Public Health;
- Waiving administrative and budgetary requirements that impede delivery of essential city services;
- Suspending or modifying personnel rules and regulations to ensure employees have adequate resources and protections, including the reassignment of personnel from their ordinary duties to work deemed necessary for the emergency without regard to job classifications;
- Closing or restricting public access to municipal facilities;
- Authorizing any actions necessary to promote health and suppress disease, including quarantine;
- Impose greater restrictions for facilities, events or gatherings that house or draw persons who are at higher risk for severe illness;

- Canceling or suspending board and commission meetings or activities;
- Authorizing the use of all available resources to assist in the City's response to this situation;
- Delegating authority to department directors to permit the use of equipment under their control for supplying necessary food, clothing, medicines, shelter or transportation to people in need of assistance or to purchase supplies and materials or alter operations in a manner that the department head deems most helpful in relieving the emergency;
- Empowering the municipal court judge to suspend all dockets, trials and hearings and take any actions necessary to preserve functioning of the municipal court;
- Suspending all rules and regulations that may inhibit or prevent prompt response to this threat;
- Taking control of any means of supplies, transportation and facilities, including buildings;
- Taking all necessary steps to enforce any enacted regulations or orders of the City Manager or Director of Public Health.

FURTHER THAT, such extraordinary and immediate measures be taken to respond quickly, prevent and alleviate the suffering of people exposed to and those infected with the virus, as well as those that could potentially be infected or impacted by COVID-19.

ADOPTED this _____ day of March, 2020.

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Mayor and Presiding Officer

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

City Counselor