

**DECLARATION OF LOCAL STATE OF DISASTER
CITY OF ARLINGTON**

- WHEREAS, in December 2019, a novel coronavirus, now designated COVID-19, was detected in Wuhan, China; and
- WHEREAS, symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, cough, and shortness of breath, and can range from mild to severe illness and in some cases death; and
- WHEREAS, on January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization Director General declared the outbreak of COVID-19, as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern, advising countries to prepare for the containment, detection, isolation and case management, contact tracing and prevention of onward spread of the disease; and
- WHEREAS, on March 5, 2020, the World Health Organization Director General urged aggressive preparedness and activation of emergency plans to aggressively change the trajectory of this epidemic; and
- WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a worldwide pandemic; and
- WHEREAS, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention is closely monitoring the growing number of COVID-19 cases that have spread into the United States; and
- WHEREAS, over 1,663 cases of COVID-19 have been reported in the United States, including 40 deaths; and
- WHEREAS, a large gathering of unidentifiable individuals without necessary mitigation for the spread of infection may pose a risk of the spread of infectious disease; and
- WHEREAS, unless the actions as hereby provided are immediately initiated, avoidable serious illness and deaths could occur; and
- WHEREAS, COVID-19 spreads between people who are in close contact with one another through respiratory droplets produce when an infected person coughs or sneezes; and
- WHEREAS, the continued worldwide spread of COVID-19 presents an imminent threat of widespread illness, which require emergency action; and
- WHEREAS, the City of Arlington Code of Ordinances defines a disaster as the occurrence or imminent threat of widespread or severe damage, injury or loss of life or property resulting from any natural or man-made cause, including epidemic and other public calamity requiring emergency action; and

WHEREAS, a declaration of local state of disaster includes the ability to take measures to reduce the possibility of exposure to disease, mitigate the risk, and promote the health and safety of the residents of the City of Arlington; and

WHEREAS, the measures identified in this Declaration of Local Disaster are designed to prevent deaths in the City of Arlington; and

WHEREAS, the identification of “community spread” cases of COVID-19 in the City of Arlington and the region could potentially signal that transmission of the virus may no longer be limited to travel outbreak areas or contact with travelers who has visited outbreak areas; and

WHEREAS, the City of Arlington will work collaboratively with Tarrant County to ensure that all appropriate and necessary measures are taken to limit the development, contraction and spread of COVID-19; NOW THEREFORE

BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF ARLINGTON, TEXAS:

I.

That a local state of disaster is declared for the City of Arlington pursuant to §418.108(a) of the Texas Government Code due to public health emergency.

II.

This declaration of local state of disaster activates the City of Arlington’s Emergency Management Plan pursuant to §418.108(d) of the Texas Government Code and all other Charter, statutory and ordinance powers vested in the Mayor and City Council of the City of Arlington to act in this local state of disaster are activated. This declaration activates the recovery and rehabilitation aspects of all applicable local or interjurisdictional emergency management plans and authorizes the furnishing of aid and assistance as deemed necessary or desirable by those administering such plans.

III.

That the local state of disaster shall continue until revoked, but in no event will it exceed for a period of not more than seven (7) days of the date hereof, unless the same is continued by consent of the City Council of the City of Arlington, Texas.

IV.

This declaration of local state of disaster shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the City Secretary.

V.

This declaration of local state of disaster authorizes the City of Arlington to temporarily or permanently acquire by lease, purchase, or other means sites required for the installation of temporary housing units or emergency shelters for disaster victims and to enter into arrangements necessary to prepare or equip the sites to use the housing units or shelters, including arrangements for the purchase of temporary housing units or shelters and the payment of transportation charges pursuant to §418.020(d) of the Texas Government Code.

VI.

Pursuant to §122.006 of the Texas Health and Safety Code, the City of Arlington is authorized to adopt rules to protect the health of persons in the City of Arlington, including quarantine rules to protect its residents against communicable disease and provide for establishment of quarantine stations, emergency hospitals and other hospitals.

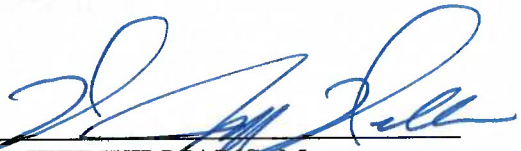
VII.

City of Arlington recommends that any public or private gatherings of 250 or more people in a single indoor or enclosed (by fence, physical barrier or other structure) outdoor location be canceled until further notice.

VIII.

That this proclamation shall take effect at 12:01 a.m. on March 14, 2020.

ORDERED this 13th day of March, 2020.


W. JEFF WILLIAMS, Mayor

RECEIVED -

City Secretary's Office
MAR 13 2020 ~ 6:45 p.m.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
TERIS SOLIS, City Attorney

BY 