

CITY OF JACKSONVILLE BEACH, FLORIDA
DECLARATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY
COVID-19

WHEREAS, on January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization (“WHO”) designated the coronavirus, COVID-19, outbreak as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern; and

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, United States Health and Human Services Secretary Alex M. Azar II declared a public health emergency for the entire United States to aid the nation’s healthcare community in responding to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2020, State of Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, executed Executive Order No. 20-52 which declared a state of emergency in the State of Florida, and designated emergency directives due to the health risks posed by COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the WHO Director General characterized COVID-19 as a global pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States of America declared a national emergency because of the conditions caused by COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 166.021, Florida Statutes, municipalities may exercise any activity or power for municipal purposes which may be exercised by the state or its political subdivisions; and

WHEREAS, Section 252.38(2) and (3), Florida Statutes, authorize municipalities to establish a municipal emergency management program, to declare a state of local emergency and to waive the procedures and formalities otherwise required of municipalities by law; and

WHEREAS, the City of Jacksonville Beach (“City”) adopted Ordinance No. 2007-7932 which established the City’s Municipal Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan and codified in the City’s Code of Ordinances the designations of responsibilities and powers of City administration and management during emergencies; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 2 - *Administration*, Article VII- *Civil Emergencies*, Sec. 2-192, of the City’s Code of Ordinances establishes that a Municipal Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan for the City shall be administered and maintained by the City Manager for the purpose of the management of emergency preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation; and

WHEREAS, City Code Sec. 2-193. - *Authority to declare and extend a state of emergency; activation of disaster plans*, empowers the Mayor of the City to declare a state of emergency in the City, when it is determined that any emergency has occurred or that the occurrence or threat of one is imminent and requires immediate and expeditious action to protect the citizens and to provide for the continued operation of essential services; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to City Code Sec. 2-193, this Declaration activates the emergency plans, authority and guidelines for emergency measures as well as authorizes the use or distribution of any supplies, equipment, materials, or facilities to be made available pursuant to such plans.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM C. LATHAM, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF JACKSONVILLE BEACH, FLORIDA, BY VIRTUE OF THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME BY CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE VII, SECTION 2-193 OF THE CITY CODE OF ORDINANCES, AND ALL OTHER APPLICABLE LAWS, DO HEREBY DECLARE:

- I. A local emergency exists in the City of Jacksonville Beach that requires immediate and expeditious action due to COVID-19. This Declaration serves as a proactive measure against the health dangers and transmission of COVID-19, and to protect the public health, welfare, and safety, and to provide for continued operation of essential services.
- II. The City's Municipal Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan is hereby activated and implemented. The City Manager and his designee(s) are authorized to take all necessary steps and actions to assist all agencies and departments in containing, preparing for, responding to, and recovering from this public health emergency, and to protect all City employees and property, and to provide all such assistance and action as is necessary for public health, welfare, and safety. The City Manager may close all City buildings and facilities to the extent necessary to meet this emergency.
- III. The City Manager and his designee(s) are vested with the powers and authority provided in Section 252.38, Florida Statutes, and may invoke and exercise any and all procedures and actions set forth in City Code Sec. 2-194.
- IV. Under the City Manager's direction, all public personnel, including the Police Department, Public Works, Planning and Development, Beaches Energy Services and all other City departments shall exercise all authority conferred by law and/or ordinance to coordinate the efforts of all departments, agencies, local, state and federal authorities to alleviate, contain, prepare for, respond to, mitigate and recover from this emergency situation.
- V. This Emergency Declaration shall expire in 7 days after its issuance, and may be extended, as necessary, in 7-day increments. *F.S. §252.38(3)(a)5.*

IT IS SO DECLARED AND ORDERED THIS 13TH DAY OF MARCH, 2020.



William C. Latham, Mayor

Attest:



Laurie Scott, City Clerk

