

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY REGULATIONS

WHEREAS, Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a severe acute respiratory illness that can spread among humans through respiratory transmission and other potential methods, and presents symptoms similar to those of influenza;

WHEREAS, in December of 2019, a new and substantial outbreak of COVID-19 emerged in Wuhan, China, and has since spread rapidly to 117 countries and territories throughout the World, including the United States, and more specifically Broward County and 18 other counties in the State of Florida;

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID-19 a pandemic;

WHEREAS, according to the WHO, as of March 12, 2020, there are 125,048 confirmed cases of COVID-19 globally, and 4,613 deaths, with 6,729 new cases and 321 new deaths in the preceding 24 hours;

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is predicting that it is likely that widespread transmission of COVID-19 will also occur in the United States;

WHEREAS, no vaccine or drug is currently available to cure or combat COVID-19;

WHEREAS, as of March 12, 2020, at least 11 persons in Broward County and 42 residents in the State of Florida have tested positive for COVID-19, with an unknown number of persons awaiting testing or awaiting test results;

WHEREAS, the City of Fort Lauderdale is threatened by COVID-19 because of the apparent ability of the virus to spread rapidly among humans, and COVID-19 thereby constitutes a clear and present threat to the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens and visitors of the City of Fort Lauderdale;

WHEREAS, the CDC has issued guidelines for “community mitigation strategies” to limit the spread of COVID-19, including recommendations for social distancing, which has proven to be an effective method for containing COVID-19;

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2020, Governor DeSantis issued Executive Order Number 20-52 regarding COVID-19, declaring a state of emergency in the State of Florida, and authorizing in accordance with Section 252.38, Florida Statutes, each political subdivision within the State to “waive the procedures and formalities otherwise

required of the political subdivision by law pertaining to . . . [the] [p]erformance of public work and taking whatever prudent action is necessary to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the community;" and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 2-274(c) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, in the event of a proclamation of a state of emergency by the Governor, the Mayor of the City of Fort Lauderdale is empowered to:

1. Make and issue rules and regulations on matters reasonably related to the protection of life and property as affected by such emergency; provided, however, such rules and regulations must be confirmed at the earliest practicable time by the City Commission;
2. Obtain vital supplies, equipment, and such other properties found lacking and needed for the protection of life and property and bind the city for the fair value thereof and, if required immediately, commandeer the same for public use;
3. Require emergency services of any City officer or employee and, in the event of the proclamation of a state of emergency in the county in which this City is located or the existence of a state of war emergency, command the aid of as many citizens of this community as he deems necessary in the execution of his duties; such persons shall be entitled to all privileges, benefits, and immunities as are provided by state law for registered disaster service workers;
4. Requisition necessary personnel or material of any City Department or agency; and
5. Execute all of his ordinary power as Mayor, all of the special powers conferred upon him by Chapter 2, Code of Ordinances of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, or by resolution or emergency plan adopted by the City Commission pursuant to Article IX, Code of Ordinances of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, all powers conferred upon him by any statute, by an agreement approved by the City Commission, and by any other lawful authority.

NOW, THEREFORE,

I, Dean J. Trantalis, Mayor of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, pursuant to the authority vested in me by Section 2-274(c), Code of Ordinances of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, do hereby declare and establish that, effective immediately:

1. The following events and activities within the City of Fort Lauderdale are postponed, cancelled, or suspended for the next 30 days, up through and including April 12, 2020:

- A. All meetings of the City Commission, City boards, including all advisory and statutory boards, City committees and City working groups;
 - B. All Special Magistrate, Code Enforcement, Board of Adjustment, and Nuisance Abatement Board hearings;
 - C. All homeowner association and civic association meetings conducted or held on City property;
 - D. All City events, including but not limited to, events approved pursuant to Chapter 15, Article V, Code of Ordinances of the City of Fort Lauderdale; and
 - E. All City recreational programs, facility rentals, and organized sports leagues.
2. All organized public gatherings of greater than 250 persons are prohibited. Land or facilities owned and managed by Broward County, the Broward County School Board, the North Broward Hospital District, the State of Florida, or the Federal Government, and any hospital or healthcare facilities, are exempt from this regulation.
 3. Every public place, building and facility, including all businesses, restaurants, bars, and retail establishments shall have alcohol-based hand sanitizer at every entrance for use by patrons and employees upon entering and exiting.
 4. All citizens and visitors of the City of Fort Lauderdale are directed to comply with these emergency regulations and necessary measures, which shall be strictly enforced, and to cooperate with public officials and public safety personnel in executing any emergency operational plans, and to obey and comply with the lawful direction of all properly identified public officers.

Dated, in the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, this 13th day of March, 2020.

Dean J. Trantalis, Mayor
City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida

Attest:

Jeff Modarelli
City Clerk