

DECLARATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, since the initial outbreak of COVID-19, the virus has spread throughout the world at a rapid pace, to include numerous instances of infection (and death) within the United States; and

WHEREAS, on March 2, 2020, the first two presumptively confirmed cases of COVID-19 infection appeared in Georgia, a number which has continued to grow as the disease appears to spread across Georgia's counties; and

WHEREAS, since March 10, 2020, incidents of infection in the United States and, in particular the state of Georgia, have grown exponentially; and

WHEREAS, as of March 20, 2020, the United States has reported 10,442 COVID-19 infections and 150 deaths; and

WHEREAS, as of March 20, 2020, Georgia reported 420 cases of COVID-19 infection and 13 associated deaths, which include 2 in nearby Chatham County, signaling the rapid approach of the disease towards the City of Hinesville; and

WHEREAS, local governments throughout the country, including Savannah, Georgia, have implemented emergency measures to stem the rapid spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the City of Hinesville anticipates the disease will continue to spread, perpetuating a public health crisis thereby necessitating implementation of certain emergency measures designed to halt the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, in the judgment of the Mayor of the City of Hinesville, with advice from the City Manager and other subject matter experts, emergency conditions exist within the City requiring extraordinary and immediate corrective actions for the protection of the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the City of Hinesville; and

WHEREAS, to prevent or minimize injury to people, certain actions are required.

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority vested in me by local and state law;

IT IS HEREBY DECLARED that a local state of emergency exists and shall continue until the conditions requiring this Declaration are abated.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED:

1. That the City Manager shall activate emergency operations plans implicated by this Order and as laid out in the published document URGENT AND IMMEDIATE CHANGES TO CITY OF HINESVILLE OPERATIONAL HOURS; and
2. As determined by the City Manager, to the extent possible, City employees should begin teleworking remotely from home;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, WITHIN THE TERRITORIAL JURISDICTIONAL LIMITS OF THE CITY OF HINESVILLE.

3. That all gyms and fitness centers, movie theaters, live performance venues, bowling alleys, arcades and golf courses shall be closed;
4. That all bars and nightclubs open for on-premise consumption of alcohol shall be closed;
5. That all restaurants and other eating and drinking establishments where food is served, may continue preparing and offering food and drink to customers via delivery service, drive-through, or takeout; provided, however, that cafeterias in hospitals, nursing homes, hospice centers, or similar facilities shall not be subject to these restrictions and may continue normal operations;
6. Funerals consisting of more than 10 mourners are encouraged to conduct graveside services only or postpone to a future date;
7. The City of Hinesville issues a recommendation to the faith community for the suspense of in-church services and the utilization of online or streaming options. If electronic delivery of services is not possible, maintaining strict adherence to CDC's social distancing guidelines of no groups larger than 10 and keeping at least 6 feet between individuals;
8. This Declaration shall take effect 3:00 pm on Saturday, March 21, 2020.
9. The City of Hinesville issues a recommendation to Hinesville merchants and retailers to immediately implement the following when possible: limiting the number of customers inside stores to prevent disregard for social/physical distancing recommendations; creating handwashing or hand sanitizing stations at the entrances of each store OR institute handwashing policies and procedures as customers enter stores, with a staff member to monitor and/or direct customers entering the store; enforcing/reinforcing the physical distance recommendation of at least 6 feet between familial groups/customers; and promotion of the use of self-checkout to limit interaction between staff and customers when possible or following the guidance of their corporate guidelines;
10. That businesses such as hair salons, barber shops, nail salons, tattoo parlors and other grooming facilities where social and/or physical distancing is not possible shall be closed;
11. That businesses classified as daycares, elementary, secondary and post-secondary private educational institutions where individuals gather for educational instruction shall be closed;
12. These changes shall take effect on Tuesday, March 24 at 5:00 p.m.
13. This Declaration shall expire on April 20, 2020 unless otherwise amended, extended, or canceled by the Mayor OR until the such time as the public health emergency as issued by the Governor of Georgia expires.

[remainder of page intentionally left blank]

NOW THEREFORE BE IT DECLARED, AND IT IS HEREBY DECLARED by the Mayor of the City of Hinesville that the COVID-19 crisis is a risk that is extremely likely to result in the destruction of life or property and emergency powers pursuant to Article III Sec. 7-56– *Conditions Authorizing Declaration of Emergency*, Article III Sec. 7-57 – *Powers After Declaration* of the City of Hinesville Code of Ordinances are hereby authorized and available for use by the City of Hinesville including but not limited to appropriate staff taking action to respond to said emergency.

Effective this 23rd day of March, 2020.

Until 20th day of April, 2020.



By: Allen Brown, Mayor
City of Hinesville