

# **DECLARATION OF DISASTER**

## **CITY OF WEST ORANGE, TEXAS MAYORAL DECLARATION OF LOCAL STATE OF DISASTER DUE TO PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY**

**WHEREAS**, beginning in December 2019, a novel coronavirus, now designated SARS-CoV2 which causes the disease COVID-19, has been declared a global pandemic by the World Health Organization; and

**WHEREAS**, the symptoms of COVID-19 can range from mild to severe illness and cause further complications including death; and

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19 virus mainly spreads between people who are in close contact with one another through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020, the Governor of the State of Texas issued a proclamation certifying that COVID-19 poses an imminent threat of disaster in the state and declaring a state of disaster for all counties in Texas; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of West Orange, Texas, is taking extraordinary measures to prevent the spread of this potentially devastating disease in our community; and

**WHEREAS**, said state of disaster requires that certain emergency protective measures be taken pursuant to the Texas Disaster Act of 1975 relating to Emergency Management and Public Health, pursuant to Chapter 418 of the Texas Government Code.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF WEST ORANGE, TEXAS:**

**SECTION 1.** That a local state of disaster for public health emergency is hereby declared for the City of West Orange, Texas, pursuant to Section 418.108(a) of the Texas Government Code.

**SECTION 2.** That pursuant to Section 418.108(b) of the Texas Government Code the state of disaster for public health emergency shall continue for a period of not more than seven (7) days from the date of this declaration, unless continued or renewed by the City Council of the City of West Orange, Texas.

**SECTION 3.** That pursuant to Section 418.108(c) of the Texas Government Code this declaration of a local state of disaster for public health emergency shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the City Secretary.

**SECTION 4.** That pursuant to Section 418.108(d) of the Texas Government Code, this declaration of a local state of disaster activates the City of West Orange, Texas,

emergency management plan, and authorizes the furnishing of aid and assistance under the declaration.

**SECTION 5.** That this declaration authorizes the City to take any actions necessary to promote health and suppress the virus, including the quarantine of persons and occupied structures, regulating ingress and egress from the City, regulating ingress and egress to occupied structures, establishment of quarantine stations, emergency hospitals, and insuring compliance for those who do not comply with the City's rules, pursuant to Section 122.006 of the Health and Safety Code.

**SECTION 6.** That this declaration hereby limits the size of gatherings to not more than 10 people and mandates the cancellation of all such gatherings until further notice. A "gathering" refers generally to a scheduled event or common endeavor where 10 persons are present in a confined space, room, or area, where safe and suggested social distancing can be met.

**SECTION 7.** It is hereby ORDERED that a twenty-four (24) hours curfew shall be in place immediately throughout West Orange for all individuals who are under the age of eighteen (18):

- a. Are not in school;
- b. Are not accompanied by school personnel, a parent or guardian, or;
- c. Are not going directly to their place of employment or going directly home from that place of employment.

This Section does not apply to special needs students during the times local school districts are required by federal law to provide services to those that qualify.

**SECTION 8.** It is hereby ORDERED that a person, business, corporation or individual shall not sell any product(s), goods and/or services for more than the price that was charged on March 12, 2020.

**SECTION 9.** It is hereby ORDERED that all municipal court appearance days have been extended from the fourteen (14) day maximum initial appearance date to forty-five (45) days, other cases will be at the discretion of the municipal court Judge.

**SECTION 10.** It is hereby ORDERED that all health clubs, gyms and exercise facilities be closed.

**SECTION 11.** It is hereby ORDERED that all bars, taverns and restaurants be closed for in house dining, only to-go and delivery services shall be permitted.

**SECTION 12.** In accordance with Texas Government Code §418.173, a person who knowingly or intentionally violates this declaration commits an offense, punishable by a fine up to \$1,000.00 or confinement in jail for a term that does not exceed 180 days.

**SECTION 13.** That this declaration hereby authorizes the use of all lawfully available enforcement tools.

**SECTION 14.** That this declaration shall take effect immediately from and after its issuance.

DECLARED this 20<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020.

  
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Roy McDonald, Mayor



**RECEIVED**  
Heresa Van Meter  
City Secretary  
03/20/2020