

STATE OF TEXAS §
 §
COUNTY OF FAYETTE §

**DECLARATION OF LOCAL DISASTER RELATED TO CORONAVIRUS DISEASE
(COVID-19)**

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the United States Federal Government has declared a national emergency and the State of Texas has declared a statewide public health disaster as a result of the COVID-19 Coronavirus; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, The Fayette County Judge issued and signed a Declaration of Local Disaster for Fayette County, Texas; and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, the Center for Disease Control and United States Office of the White House, issued recommended guidelines regarding preventative procedures for the spread of COVID-19 titled, “15 Days to Slow the Spread”; and

WHEREAS, on March 19th, 2020, Fayette County Commissioners Court extended the Declaration of Disaster an additional seven days; and

WHEREAS, during the week of March 22, 2020, many Texas counties, including Harris County, Travis County, Bexar County, Dallas County and Tarrant County, issued shelter-in-place orders in response to the growing threat of the COVID-19 virus spread; and

WHEREAS, on March 25, 2020, United States President, Donald Trump, issued a Major Disaster Declaration designating the State of Texas the site of a major disaster due to the COVID-19 virus; and

WHEREAS, on March 26, 2020, Fayette County extended this disaster declaration for an additional two weeks as a result of the increasing threat of COVID-19 spread; and

WHEREAS, on March 31, 2020, Texas Governor Greg Abbot issued an extension to Executive Order GA-14, a state wide “stay home, stay safe” order, excepting only essential business practices in the State of Texas; and

WHEREAS, on April 9, Fayette County extended the declaration of disaster and included additional restrictions therein requiring all hospitality companies to cease providing overnight stay services to non-essential employees within Fayette County limits; and

WHEREAS, according to the Center for Disease Control, the COVID-19 virus spreads between people who are in close contact, and large gatherings of people pose an increased risk of spreading the infectious disease; and

WHEREAS, the potential spread of the COVID-19 Coronavirus poses an imminent threat to the health and safety of the citizens of Fayette County; and

WHEREAS, the magnitude of the potential damage and the rapidity with which potential spread of the COVID-19 Coronavirus could constitute an imminent threat of disaster and a risk to overwhelming local healthcare resources; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Government Code Chapter 418 gives the county judge the power to declare a local disaster within the county “if the threat of disaster is imminent”; and

WHEREAS, the declaration of such a disaster authorizes the imposition of controls on activities which tend to increase the likelihood of injury to the public; and

WHEREAS, other local governments in our immediate area have taken preventative measures, including imposing a limit the size of gatherings, and placing restrictions on local businesses in an effort to further address the threat and spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, such controls, once implemented, have the potential of protecting lives and property by mitigating the threat of a potential spread of the COVID-19 Coronavirus; and

WHEREAS, Fayette County sits between three major COVID-19 “hotspots” of Harris County, Texas, Travis County, Texas, and Bexar County, Texas connected by Interstate-71 and Interstate-10, which pass through Fayette County; and

WHEREAS, Harris, Travis, and Bexar Counties have experienced significant increases in the number of COVID-19 positive individuals in the last 30 days which have caused those counties to implement shelter in place orders;

WHEREAS, on April 27, 2020, Governor Abbott issued the “Texans Helping Texans, The Governor’s Report to Open Texas” a report of guidelines that strictly adhere to the CDC recommendations on a safe path to opening up businesses and social gathers in Texas. Along the report, the Governor issued GA-18 which allowed for “Reopened Services” to allow operation at 25% capacity beginning May 1, 2020.

WHEREAS, on May 18, 2020, the Texas Department of State Health Services issued “Checklist of Health Protocols for Individuals” removing the 10-person social gathering limitation in situations where the risk of in person contact is minimal, but continued to recommend compliance with the recommended minimum health protocols.

WHEREAS, on July 2, 2020, Governor Abbott issues Executive Order GA-29, mandating masks be worn, with exceptions, for individuals in public spaces.

BE IT THEREFORE PROCLAIMED that I, Joseph Weber, County Judge of Fayette County, along with the members of the Fayette County Commissioners Court, hereby extend the local state of disaster issued by Fayette County, Texas on March 13, 2020, based on the threat of spreading of the COVID-19 Coronavirus in Fayette County, Texas for an additional fourteen (14) days as allowed by Texas Government Code Section 418.108.

BE IT ALSO PROCLAIMED that this order activates the Fayette County Emergency Management Plan and all other statutory and ordinance powers vested in the County Judge and/or other local officials.

BE IT ALSO PROCLAIMED that pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 418.108(g), the County Judge may control ingress to and egress from a disaster area under the jurisdiction and authority of the County Judge to control the movement of persons and the occupancy of premises within that area.

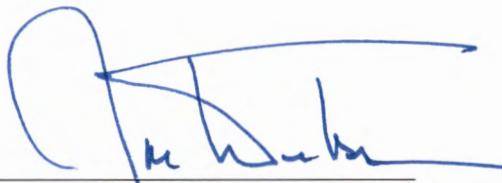
BE IT ALSO PROCLAIMED that the prior declaration of disaster provision, issued April 9, 2020, placing restrictions on all companies providing overnight hospitality services in Fayette County, Texas is hereby withdrawn.

BE IT ALSO PROCLAIMED that this state of disaster will continue until rescinded in accordance with the above cited statute, but in no instance will this declaration continue for more than fourteen days without being authorized by the Fayette County Commissioners Court.

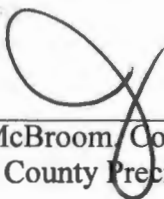
BE IT ALSO PROCLAIMED that peace officers, including but not limited to the Fayette County Sherriff's Office are hereby authorized to enforce this order. A violation of this order may be punishable as a violation of the Fayette County Emergency Management Plan and may be punishable through criminal enforcement. A violation is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed \$1,000.00 and/or confinement in jail for a term not to exceed 180 days.

This declaration shall be promptly publicized and filed with the County Clerk.


IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I affix my signature this 10th day of September, 2020.



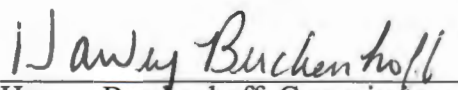
Joe Weber
Fayette County Judge




Jason McBroom, Commissioner
Fayette County Precinct 1



Luke Sternadel, Commissioner
Fayette County Precinct 2




Harvey Berckenhoff, Commissioner
Fayette County Precinct 3



Tom Muras, Commissioner
Fayette County Precinct 4

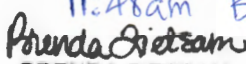
ATTEST:



Brenda Fietsam, County Clerk
Fayette County, Texas



Filed with the County Clerk of Fayette County on 10th day of September, 2020.

FILED
SEP 10 2020
11:48am BCF

BRENDA FIETSAM
CO. CLERK, FAYETTE CO., TEXAS