

## **SECOND DECLARATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY BY CITY OF FORT VALLEY.**

**WHEREAS**, the outbreak of the COVID-19 Corona Virus in the United States has placed the State of Georgia and the citizens of Fort Valley, Georgia in ongoing and imminent danger; and

**WHEREAS**, there have been positive cases of COVID-19 in Peach County, Houston County, Bibb County, Monroe County, Baldwin County and Twiggs County;

**WHEREAS**, the Governor of the State of Georgia, Brian P. Kemp has declared a statewide emergency and issued an executive order on March 23, 2020 order persons in nursing homes, and people with certain health conditions to shelter in place; and

**WHEREAS**, O.C.G.A. §38-3-28(a) provides the political subdivisions of the state with authority to make, amend and rescind such orders, rules and regulations as may be necessary for emergency management purposes to supplement rules and regulations promulgated by the Governor during a state of emergency; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 30-34 of the Charter of the City of Fort Valley provides the Mayor with authority to declare a local state of emergency and Fort Valley rules and regulations for the purpose of minimizing injury to the people of the City of Fort Valley and protecting the welfare of the community;

**WHEREAS**, a critical component of the public response to COVID-19 pandemic is to practice “social distancing” by minimizing contact between people residing in different households as much as possible;

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor of Fort Valley has determined that limiting large gatherings of people is necessary and critical to preventing and/or slowing the spread of COVID-19 throughout the community; and

**WHEREAS**, in the judgment of the Mayor of Fort Valley, there exists emergency circumstances within the City requiring extraordinary and immediate corrective actions for the protection of the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Fort Valley; and

**WHEREAS**, it is necessary to take extraordinary and emergency actions to prevent the spread of this serious illness to people

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY DECLARED** that a local state of emergency exists in the City of Fort Valley and shall continue until the conditions requiring this declaration are abated.

### **WHEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED:**

- (1) That a local state of public health emergency is hereby declared in the City of Fort Valley.

- (2) All public property owned by the City of Fort Valley, including city hall, the public works building, the Fort Valley Police Department, city parks and city-owned playgrounds and recreation facilities, is closed to the public.
- (3) Any payments that must be made to the City shall be placed in the Lock Box located outside City Hall. If citizens need in-person assistance, they may call the non-emergency police department line at 478-825-3383.
- (4) The City is hereby suspending trash pickup of non-household waste.
- (5) Public or private gatherings of more than ten (10) persons are prohibited anywhere in the City of Fort Valley for the duration of this Executive Order. For the purposes of this Order, a “gathering” is any indoor or outdoor event or convening, subject to the exceptions and clarifications below, which brings together or is likely to bring together, ten (10) or more persons at the same time in a single room or other single confined or enclosed space, such as an auditorium, stadium (indoor or outdoor), tent, arena, event center, music venue, meeting hall, conference center, large cafeteria, church, or any other confined indoor or confined outdoor space, to include birthday parties, family reunions, baby showers, weddings, and funerals. For purposes of this Executive Order, a “gathering” shall not include the following:
  - (i) Office space, public or private schools, child-care facilities, residential buildings, or any type of temporary shelter or housing;
  - (ii) Hospitals and medical facilities; and
  - (iii) Grocery stores, shopping centers or malls, other retail establishments;
  - (iv) Industrial and manufacturing operations
- (6) Funeral homes and Churches are encouraged to limit funeral services to graveside services for immediate family only.
- (7) All permits for special events, including park facility rentals, to be held on City property for the duration of this Order are hereby cancelled, and no new special event permits shall be authorized for the duration of this Order. Persons affected by this cancellation shall be entitled to a refund of any permit or rental fees paid.
- (8) Restaurants and coffee shops, may continue to be open, but may only serve patrons to go, drive-through or for delivery. All bars and private social clubs are closed. Restaurants may continue to serve patrons through a drive-through after 10:00 p.m., however patrons shall not be permitted to congregate in the parking lot.
- (9) The City hereby restricts public travel within the City within the hours of 10 p.m. to 6 a.m, with exceptions for people traveling to and from medical facilities, people

traveling to and from work, people responding to emergencies, travel by emergency and public safety personnel, travel by essential City personnel, people traveling through the City to a destination outside the City limits and/or people making deliveries within the City.

- (10) All business within the City, with the exception of medical and pharmaceutical establishments, are hereby ordered to close indoor access to the general public by 10 p.m. Businesses may continue to operate, so long as only employees or owners are allowed in the facilities.
- (11) Residents of the City of Fort Valley are encouraged to shelter in place and only leave their homes when necessary to procure food or essential services.
- (12) Violation of this order shall constitute a misdemeanor and shall be punishable with a fine not exceeding \$1,000.00 and /or imprisonment not exceeding 180 days, or both.
- (13) These provisions shall be enforced by the Fort Valley Police Department.

This order is made pursuant to O.C.G.A. §38-2-28 and is filed in the Office of the Clerk of the City of Fort Valley. This order was made with due consideration to the orders, rules, regulations, actions, recommendations and requests of federal authorities relevant thereto and to the extent permitted by law shall be consistent with such orders, rules, regulations, actions, recommendations and requests.

**SO ORDERED**, this 24th day of March, 2020.

CITY OF FORT VALLEY, GEORGIA

By: Barbara B. Williams  
Barbara Williams, Mayor

(SEAL)

Attest: Scakajawea Wright  
Scakajawea Wright, Clerk