

EXPANDED DECLARATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, Turner County, Georgia has experienced an event of critical significance as a result COVID-19 on March 20, 2020; and

WHEREAS, in the judgment of the Chairman of the Turner County Board of Commissioners, with advice from Director Mark Robinson Head of the Turner County Emergency Management Agency, there exist emergency circumstances located in Turner County requiring extraordinary and immediate corrective actions for the protection of the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Turner County, including individuals with household pets and service animals. This order in exist in conjunction with the State of Public Health Emergency issued by Governor Brian Kemp on March the 14th 2020 and The National State of Emergency issued by President Donald J. Trump on March 13th, 2020; and

WHEREAS, to prevent or minimize injury to people and damage to property resulting from this event and, to provide for the continued distribution of goods and services vital to the safety and recovery of Turner County.

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 Turner County Emergency Management Agency activates the Emergency Operations Plan, and county ordinances, noting that nothing in this declaration will impede the ability of grocery stores, gas stations, convenience stores, pharmacies, etc., to receive or make deliveries. Noting that under the provisions of O.C.G.A. § 38-3-58, organizations and business entities (including their employees and agents) that facilitate (or are likely to facilitate) the transport or distribution of essentials and that are certified by the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency, may enter or remain in a curfew area beyond the restrictions of the curfew for the limited purpose of facilitating the transport or distribution of essentials for as long as reasonable possible and that public safety is not jeopardized.

(2) That the sections of the Turner County Code, as needed or applicable for a declared state of emergency be implemented in an effort to control and curb the spread of the Covid 19 virus; and in doing so orders or commands that are issued in this declaration will not impact suppliers who deliver food, pharmaceuticals, gasoline and essential items to grocery and other stores, as well as directly to people through home delivery, via Amazon, UPS, FedEx, etc. Should it become required as part of this declaration to imposes or affect mandatory closing times, curfews, noise or other relevant ordinances, all possible consideration will be given that the declaration DOES NOT impair the needed delivery of goods to stores or to homes via direct delivery for as long as reasonable possible and that public safety is not jeopardized.

(3) That the following measures also be implemented: to assure public safety.

- 1. This Declaration comes after the release of substantial guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Georgia Department of Public Health, and other public health officials throughout the United States and around the world, including a variety of prior orders to combat the spread and harms of COVID-19. The Mayors and Chairman will continue to communicate with the EMA director who will assess the quickly evolving situation and may modify or extend this Declaration or issue additional amendment's or expansions as requires, related to COVID-19.**
- 2. A curfew is imposed from 9:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. effective immediately. Residents, unless "exempt individuals" as defined herein, shall remain in their homes or on their property. Exempt individuals include those individuals engaged in the provision of designated, essential services, such as (1) fire; (2) law enforcement; (3) medical and hospital services; (4) military services; (5) utility emergency repairs; (6) persons seeking emergency medical services or hospital services; (7) individuals**

traveling to and from their jobs with appropriate identification; (8) individuals engaged in the delivery of food, medicine, medical supplies, fuel including but not limited to the re-stocking of grocery stores, pharmacies, and convenience stores; and (9) news media employees. This curfew shall not apply to individuals traveling upon or exiting off of Interstate 75 for purposes of re-fueling, lodging or securing food provisions.

3. *Voluntary Shelter in Place: Beginning Tuesday, March 24, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. and concluding Sunday, April 5, 2020 at 11:59 p.m. unless otherwise extended, a voluntary shelter in place policy is hereby implemented requesting that individuals not loiter, wander, stroll, or play in any public place within the territorial limits of Turner County, Provided, however, that the provisions of this section shall not apply in the following instances:*
- When a person is upon an emergency errand.*
- When a person is traveling to, or returning directly home from, lawful employment or otherwise engaged in lawful employment that makes it necessary to be in above referenced places during the proscribed period of time.*
- When a person is attending or traveling directly to or from an activity involving the exercise of First Amendment rights of free speech, freedom of assembly, or free exercise of religion.*
- When a person is engaged in interstate and intrastate vehicular travel through Turner County,*
- When a person is walking or running to or from their residence for recreational or fitness purposes.*
- When a person is procuring food or medicine or seeking medical care.*

(ii) *Prohibition on Gatherings: Beginning on Tuesday, March 24, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. and concluding Sunday,*

April 5, 2020 at 11:59 p.m. unless otherwise extended, all public assemblages, events, and gatherings within the territorial limits of Turner County, Georgia shall be prohibited of ten (10) or more people, not including employees, in restaurants, bars, and/or entertainment establishments or in facilities owned by Turner County, Ashburn, Rebecca and Sycamore, Georgia or on public property.

(iii) *Bars, Pubs, and Nightclubs*

- A. *The county commission is authorized to suspend the sale of liquor by the drink under any license for any emergency situation such that the county commission finds such suspension necessary for the protection of the public health, safety, or welfare, any licensee authorized to sell alcoholic beverages for consumption on premises shall suspend all sale of alcoholic beverages effective at Friday, March 20, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. and ending on Sunday, April 5, 2020 at 11:59 p.m.*

(iv) *Restaurants*

- a) *A restaurant shall immediately limit its occupancy to 50% of its current building occupancy.*
- b) *A restaurant shall follow the CDC guidance by ensuring, at minimum, a 6-foot distance between any group of patrons and limiting parties to no more than 10 individuals.*
- c) *The County shall ensure all restaurants implement employee screening and prohibit any employee from entering the restaurant premises if they meet any of the criteria listed below:*
- I. *Any person showing, presenting signs or symptoms of, or disclosing the presence of a respiratory infection, including cough, fever, shortness of breath or sore throat.*
- II. *Any person who has been in contact with any person(s) known to be infected with COVID-19, who has not yet tested negative for COVID-19 within the past 14 days.*
- III. *Any person who traveled through any airport within the past 14 days: or*
- IV. *Any person who traveled on a cruise ship within the past 14 days.*

For purposes of this section, "restaurant" shall include any Food Service Establishment, Restaurant means an establishment for the preparation and serving of meals, lunches, short orders, sandwiches, frozen desserts or other edible products for consumption on premises and which derive at least 50 percent

of gross sale from food products.

4. *All businesses with a physical presence in Turner County, except Essential Businesses, are required to cease all activities at facilities located within the County except Minimum Basic Operations, as defined herein. For clarity, businesses may also continue operations consisting exclusively of employees or contractors performing activities at their own residences (i.e., working from home). All Essential Businesses are strongly encouraged to remain open. To the greatest extent feasible, Essential Businesses shall comply with Social Distancing Requirements, including, but not limited to, when any customers are standing in line.*
5. *All public and private gatherings of more than ten (10) persons occurring outside a residence are prohibited, except for as otherwise expressly permitted herein. Nothing in this Declaration prohibits the gathering of members inside of a residence.*
6. *All travel, including, but not limited to, travel on foot, bicycle, scooter, motorcycle, automobile, or public transit, except Essential Activities and Essential Travel, is prohibited. People must refrain from travel only for purposes of performing Essential Activities or to travel to and from work to operate Essential Businesses or maintain Essential Governmental Functions. People riding on public transit must comply with Social Distancing Requirements, to the greatest extent feasible. This Declaration allows travel into or out of the County to perform Essential Activities, operate Essential Businesses, or maintain Essential Governmental Functions.*
7. *Exceptions. For purposes of this Declaration,*
 - (a) *All first responders, emergency management personnel, emergency dispatchers, court personnel, and law enforcement personnel, and others who need to perform essential services are categorically exempt from this Declaration. Further, nothing in this Declaration shall prohibit any individual from performing or accessing "Essential Governmental Functions", as determined by the governmental entity performing those functions. Each governmental entity shall identify and designate appropriate employees or contractors to continue providing and carrying out any Essential Governmental Functions. All Essential Governmental Functions shall be performed in compliance with Social Distancing Requirements.*
 - (b) *Individuals may leave their residence to perform "Essential Activities";*
 - (c) *Individuals may leave their residence to perform work at an "Essential Business";*
 - (d) *Individuals may leave their residence to provide any services or perform any work necessary to the operations and maintenance of "Essential Infrastructure";*
 - (e) *Individuals may leave their residence to work for or to obtain services at any "Healthcare Operations"; and are encouraged to call before travelling to Healthcare Operations,*
 - (f) *Individuals may also leave their residence to carry out activities specifically permitted in this Declaration, including "Minimum Basic Operations".*
6. *Definitions. For purposes of this Declaration,*
 - (a) *Business means any commercial, mercantile, industrial, or professional endeavor engaged in, whether for-profit or non-profit, regardless of the nature of the service, the function they perform, or its corporate or entity structure, and private educational entities.*
 - (b) *Essential Activities shall be defined as:*
 - i. *Activities or tasks essential to the health and safety of residents, or to the health and safety of their family or household members or partners or significant others (including, but not limited to, pets), such as, by way of example only and without limitation, obtaining medical supplies or medication, visiting a health care professional, or obtaining supplies they need to work from home.*
 - ii. *Obtaining necessary services or supplies for residents and their family or household members, or delivering those services or supplies to others, such as, by way of example only and without limitation, canned food, dry goods, fresh fruits and vegetables, pet*

supplies, fresh meats, fish, and poultry, and any other household consumer products, and products necessary to maintain the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences.

- iii. *Outdoor activity, such as, by way of example and without limitation, walking, hiking, running, or bicycling. However, individuals shall not engage in team sports and/or activities which result in the congregation of ten (10) or more persons. Individuals engaged in outdoor activities shall comply with Social Distancing Requirements.*
- iv. *Caring for a family member or pet in another household.*

Those at high risk of severe illness from COVID-19 and people who are sick are urged to remain in their residence to the extent possible, except to seek medical care.

(c) **Essential Business means:**

- i. *Healthcare Operations and Essential Infrastructure.*
- ii. *Grocery stores, certified farmers' markets, farm and produce stands, supermarkets, food banks, convenience stores, and other establishments engaged in the retail sale of canned food, dry goods, fresh fruits and vegetables, pet supply, fresh meats, fish, and poultry, and any other household consumer products (such as cleaning and personal care products). This includes stores that sell groceries and also sell other nongrocery products, and products necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences.*
- iii. *Food cultivation, including farming, livestock, and fishing.*
- iv. *Businesses that provide food, shelter, and social services, and other necessities of life for economically disadvantaged or otherwise needy individuals.*
- v. *Newspapers, television, radio, and other media services.*
- vi. *Gas stations and auto-supply, auto-repair, and related facilities.*
- vii. *Banks and related financial institutions.*
- viii. *Hardware stores.*
- ix. *Plumbers, electricians, exterminators, and other service providers who provide services that are necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences, Essential Activities, and Essential Businesses.*
- x. *Businesses providing mailing and shipping services, including post office boxes.*
- xi. *Educational institutions-including private K-12 schools, colleges, and universities-for purposes of facilitating distance learning or performing essential functions, provided that Social Distancing Requirements are maintained, to the greatest extent possible.*
- xii. *Laundromats, drycleaners, and laundry service providers.*
- xiii. *Restaurants and other facilities that prepare and serve food, but only for delivery or carry out. Schools and other entities that typically provide free food services to students or members of the public may continue to do so under this Declaration. Schools and other entities that provide food services under this exemption shall not permit the food to be eaten at the site where it is provided, or at any other gathering site.*
- xiv. *Businesses that supply products needed for people to work from home.*
- xv. *Businesses or manufacturers that supply other Essential Businesses with the support or supplies necessary to operate, including, building supply stores.*
- xvi. *Businesses that ship or deliver groceries, food, goods, or services directly to residences.*

- xvii. *Airlines, taxis, and other private transportation providers providing transportation services necessary for Essential Activities and other purposes expressly authorized in this Declaration.*
- xviii. *Home-based care for seniors, adults, or children.*
- xix. *Residential facilities including hotels, motels, shared rental units and similar facilities and shelters for seniors, adults, and children.*
- xx. *Professional services, such as legal, accounting services, and real estate services.*
- xxi. *Childcare facilities, subject to the following provisions:*
 - A.** *Childcare must be carried out in stable groups of 12 or fewer (“stable” means that the same 12 or fewer children are in the same group each day).*
 - B.** *Children shall not change from one group to another.*
 - C.** *If more than one group of children is cared for at one facility, each group shall be in a separate room. Groups shall not mix with each other.*
 - D.** *Childcare providers shall remain solely with one group of children.*
- xxii. *All businesses which possess a license to sell alcoholic beverages for off-premises consumption, but only via drive-thru or in parking lots or at curb.*

Those businesses identified in subsections i, ii, vi, x, and xii and this section shall not permit its premises to become occupied by any more than fifty (50%) percent of its approved occupancy level and shall further encourage patrons to respect Social Distancing Requirements.

- (d) *Essential Infrastructure shall include, but is not limited to, public works construction, construction and all related activities (in particular affordable housing or housing for individuals experiencing homelessness), airport operations, water, sewer, gas, electrical, oil refining, roads and highways, public transportation, solid waste collection and removal, internet, and telecommunications systems (including the provision of essential global, national, and local infrastructure for computing services, business infrastructure, communications, and web-based services), provided that they carry out those services or that work in compliance with the Social Distancing Requirements, to the extent possible.*
- (e) *Essential Travel includes travel for any of the following purposes:*
 - i. *Any travel related to the provision of or access to Essential Activities, Essential Businesses, Essential Governmental Functions, or Minimum Basic Operations.*
 - ii. *Travel to care for elderly, minors, dependents, persons with disabilities, or other vulnerable persons.*
 - iii. *Travel to or from educational institutions for purposes of receiving materials for distance learning, for receiving meals, and any other related services.*
 - iv. *Travel to return to a place of residence from outside Turner County.*
 - v. *Travel required by law enforcement or court order.*
 - vi. *Travel required for non-residents to return to their place of residence outside Turner County.*

Individuals engaged in any Essential Travel are expected to comply with Social Distancing Requirements, to the greatest extent feasible.

- (f) *Healthcare Operations shall include hospitals, clinics, dentists, pharmacies, pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, other healthcare facilities, healthcare suppliers, home healthcare services providers, mental health providers, or any related and/or ancillary*

healthcare services. Healthcare Operations also includes veterinary care and all healthcare services provided to animals. This exemption shall be construed broadly to avoid any impacts to the delivery of healthcare, broadly defined. Healthcare Operations does not include fitness and exercise gyms and similar facilities.

- (g) *Minimum Basic Operations shall be defined to include:*
- i. *The minimum necessary activities to maintain the value of the business's inventory, ensure security, process payroll and employee benefits, or for related functions.*
 - ii. *The minimum necessary activities to facilitate employees of the business being able to continue to work remotely from their residences.*
- (h) *Residence includes single-family dwellings, duplexes, apartments, dormitories, hotels, motels, shared rental units and similar facilities.*
- (i) *Social Distancing Requirements means maintaining a minimum distance of six (6') feet from other individuals, washing hands with soap and water for at least twenty seconds as frequently as possible or using hand sanitizer, covering coughs or sneezes (into the sleeve or elbow, not hands), regularly cleaning high-touch surfaces, and not shaking hands. These modifications of interpersonal contact are necessary to combat the spread of COVID-19.*

Article 3. *Individuals who have been tested for COVID-19. Any individual who has tested positive for COVID-19 or has been released from a hospital or other healthcare facility, pending the results of a test for the virus, is required to remain in his or her home, for the duration of this Declaration, or until he or she receives confirmation that the results of the test were negative. Individuals subject to this provision of this Declaration are, however, authorized to travel to and from area Hospitals and/or to appointments with healthcare professionals.*

AMMENDED at **8:00 am** on **March 24, 2020**.

[Signed]
Chairman, _____
Turner County Board of Commissioners
Seal of Turner County

Notary, _____
My Commission Expires on _____
Seal