



## EMERGENCY ORDINANCE

**Section 1.** Findings. City Council does hereby make the following findings:

**WHEREAS**, in December 2019, an outbreak of respiratory illness due to a novel coronavirus (COVID-19), was first identified in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China, and has spread outside of China, across the world, including the United States; and,

**WHEREAS**, on January 23, 2020, the Center for Disease Control (“CDC”) activated its Emergency Response System to provide ongoing support for the response to COVID-19; and,

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020, President Donald Trump declared a national emergency to assist with combating the coronavirus, and,

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020, Governor Henry McMaster declared a state of emergency in South Carolina; and,

**WHEREAS**, on March 16, 2020, Mayor John J. Tecklenburg declared a local state of emergency in the City of Charleston; and,

**WHEREAS**, on April 7, 2020, as an effort to protect those infected with COVID-19 and to reduce the strain on emergency personnel and medical facilities, the South Carolina Forestry Commission declared a statewide burning ban of yard debris, forestry, wildlife, and campfires, and other recreational burns;

**WHEREAS**, the City’s open burn ordinance permits recreational fires; and,

**WHEREAS**, at this crucial time, it is necessary to protect the public health, safety and welfare of the City of Charleston by coordinating the State’s prohibition on open fires and the City’s open burn ordinance to create countywide uniformity on this issue in Charleston.

**Section 2.** Chapter 13, Section 10, Subsection (b) of the Code of the City of Charleston is hereby amended by deleting the struck through language below which shall read as follows:

“(b) A person shall not kindle, maintain, or authorize to be kindled or maintained any open burning ~~unless allowed below.~~”

**Section 3.** Chapter 13, Section 10, Subsection (c) of the Code of the City of Charleston is hereby amended by deleting said Subsection

**Section 4.** This Ordinance shall become effective upon ratification and shall expire sixty (60) days from the date of the State of Emergency declared on March 16, 2020 unless otherwise modified, amended, or rescinded by a subsequent City Ordinance to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the City of Charleston.

Ratified in City Council this \_\_\_\_ day of  
\_\_\_\_\_ in the Year of Our Lord,  
2020, and in the \_\_\_\_th Year of the Independence  
of the United States of America.

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
John J. Tecklenburg  
Mayor, City of Charleston

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Vanessa Turner Maybank  
Clerk of Council