JOHN J. TECKLENBURG
MAYOR

City of Charleston

South Carolina

Charleston Fire Department

DANIEL M. CURIA
FIRE CHIEF

MEMORANDUM

To: John Tecklenburg, Mayor

From: Daniel M. Curia, Fire Chief

Date: March 17, 2020

Subject: Clarification Concerning Gather Ordinance Passed in Response to COVID-19

Mayor Tecklenburg:

The purpose of this memo is to clarify the intent and enforcement surrounding the Emergency Gathering Ordinance and to clarify which businesses and occupancies would fall within the scope of the Ordinance and which would not.

There were several questions posed during the March 16 City Council meeting concerning which businesses and occupancies would be within the scope of the ordinance and which would not. Those businesses and occupancies that will fall within the scope of enforcement are these: bars, restaurants, movie theaters, bowling alleys, public gathering spaces within hotels, cafeterias with a "public" component, gyms/yoga studios/etc., and places of worship. Those businesses and occupancies that will not fall within the scope of enforcement are these: grocery stores, medical facilities, pharmacies, homes, private businesses not included in the list of those falling within the scope, governmental buildings, schools/colleges/universities, and any private event that is not open to the public, such as weddings or similar functions. For those establishments that are not within the scope of the Ordinance, we strongly urge social distancing be observed as recommended.

We expect enforcement will be gained through education and voluntary compliance. If voluntary measures are not successful, citations can be issued.

As the language of the Ordinance indicated, the list of establishments in this memo impacted by the Emergency Gathering Ordinance is not intended to be all-encompassing. All involved will work within guidance from your office and the rest of City Council to ensure the public's safety during this state of emergency. We understand the ordinance will be revised, as necessary, in the upcoming weeks. It automatically expires in 60 days from yesterday.