

**EXECUTIVE ORDER
CONTINUING THE DECLARATION OF STATE OF EMERGENCY
IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 VIRUS OUTBREAK**

WHEREAS, in December 2019, an outbreak 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, it is well recognized that COVID-19 presents a public health concern that requires extraordinary protective measures and vigilance; 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 (the “Governor”) declared a state of emergency in South Carolina, Executive Order 2020-10, based on a determination that “COVID-19 poses an actual or imminent public health emergency”; and,

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

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, City Council passed a temporary emergency ordinance (Ordinance No. 2020-038) to prohibit consumer price gouging on all commodities in the City of Charleston with limited exceptions; and,

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, City Council passed a temporary emergency ordinance (Ordinance No. 2020-040) suspending the requirements of Section 2-23(f) of the Code of the City of Charleston requiring the physical presence of Councilmembers at City Council meetings and committee meetings to permit participation by video conferencing or other virtual means to slow the spread of COVID-19; and,

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2020, the Governor issued Executive Order 2020-10, ordering and directing that any and all restaurants or other food-service establishments to suspend on-premises or dine-in consumption; and,

WHEREAS, on March 20, 2020, City Council passed a temporary emergency ordinance (Ordinance No. 2020-041) to temporarily suspend the accrual of the City's business license penalties, to suspend enforcement of the City's plastic bag ban, and to suspend the City's chauffer's license requirements; and,

WHEREAS, on March 21, 2020, the Governor issued Executive Order 2020-13, authorizing and directing law enforcement officers to prohibit or disburse any congregation or gathering of people, unless authorized or in their homes, in groups of three (3) or more people, if any such law enforcement official determines, in his or her discretion, that any such congregation or gathering of people poses, or could pose, a threat to public health; and,

WHEREAS, on March 24, 2020, City Council passed a temporary emergency ordinance, "Stay at Home Ordinance" (Ordinance No. 2020-042) which required individuals to stay in their homes and not travel or congregate in the streets of Charleston except for purposes of working at or conducting business with an essential business or engaging in individual outdoor recreational activities; and,

WHEREAS, on March 27, 2020, the Governor issued Executive Order 2020-14, directing that individuals who enter the State of South Carolina from an area with a substantial community spread of COVID-19 be required isolate or self-quarantine; and,

WHEREAS, on March 28, 2020, the Governor issued Executive Order 2020-15, declaring a separate and distinct state of emergency "due to the evolving nature and scope of the public health threat or other risks posed by COVID-19 and the actual, ongoing, and anticipated impacts associated with the same" and extending certain previous Executive Orders for the duration of the state of emergency; and,

WHEREAS, on March 30, 2020, the Governor issued Executive Order 2020-16, closing any and all public beach access points and public piers, docks, wharfs, boat ramps, and boat landings; and,

WHEREAS, on March 31, 2020, the Governor issued Executive Order 2020-17, closing or restricting access to certain non-essential businesses, venues, facilities, services, and activities; and,

WHEREAS, on April 1, 2020, City Council passed a second Stay at Home Ordinance (Ordinance No. 2020-048) which includes provisions contained in Governor McMaster's Executive Orders regarding dispersing of crowds (2020-13); quarantining of individuals from New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut (2020-14); closing of beaches and boat landings (2020-16); and closing of non-essential businesses (2020-17); and,

WHEREAS, on April 3, 2020, Governor Henry McMaster issued an Executive Order (2020-18) closing additional non-essential businesses; and,

WHEREAS, on April 6, 2020, Governor Henry McMaster, recognizing that public health officials had reported over 2,000 cases of COVID-19 in South Carolina, issued a Work or Home Executive Order (2020-21) which limited individuals from moving outside their homes except to engage in Essential Businesses; Essential Activities, and Critical Infrastructure Operations as defined in the Order; and,

WHEREAS, on April 6, 2020, City Council passed a temporary emergency ordinance (Ordinance No. 2020-042) to provide for temporary procedures for public hearings; and,

WHEREAS, on April 12, 2020, the Governor issued Executive Order 2020-23, recognizing that public health officials had reported over 3,319 confirmed cases of COVID-19 throughout South Carolina, and stating that “the extraordinary circumstances and conditions that necessitated” the Governor’s “prior emergency declarations have not subsided and have, in fact, evolved and expanded to present different and additional risks and dangers,” and explaining that the State “has transitioned from the investigation, reporting, and initiation phases of the COVID-19 pandemic to the acceleration phase”; and,

WHEREAS, in Executive Order 2020-23, the Governor declared a separate and distinct state of emergency based on a determination “that the accelerated spread of COVID-19 throughout the State poses an actual, ongoing, and evolving public health threat to the State of South Carolina, which now represents a new and distinct emergency and requires additional proactive action by the [State] and the implementation and enforcement of further extraordinary measures to slow the spread of COVID-19, minimize the strain on healthcare providers, and otherwise respond to and mitigate the expanding public health threat imposed by [the] emergency”; and,

WHEREAS, on April 16, 2020, the Governor issued Executive Order 2020-25, determining that “the ongoing, evolving, and accelerating public health threat imposed by COVID-19 requires additional proactive action by the [State] and the implementation, extension, or modification of additional extraordinary measures to cope with the existing or anticipated situation, to include mitigating the significant economic and other impacts and burdens on individuals, families and businesses,” while generally reopening public boat ramps or boat landings, as well as adjacent or associated public parking lots, for the purpose of launching and retrieving boats; and,

WHEREAS, on April 16, 2020, President Donald Trump issued guidelines entitled “Opening Up America Again,” describing criteria that state and local officials should satisfy before proceeding to a phased opening of the economy; and,

WHEREAS, on April 20, 2020, Governor McMaster issued an Executive Order (2020-28), reopening retail businesses previously determined to be non-essential including department stores, furniture stores, luggage stores, flower shops, book, craft and music shops subject to certain emergency rules and restrictions, including but not limited to an emergency maximum occupancy rate, social distancing practices, and compliance with certain sanitation guidelines and further ordered any local ordinance that conflicts with the Order is superseded; and,

WHEREAS, on April 22, 2020, City Council passed a temporary emergency ordinance (Ordinance No. 2020-052) to decrease the potential likelihood of exposure to COVID-19 in retail establishments opened by Governor McMaster’s Executive Order 2020-28; and,

WHEREAS, on April 27, 2020, Governor McMaster issued an Executive Order (2020-29) declaring a fourth (4th) State of Emergency in order to prepare for and respond to the ongoing and evolving public health threat posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, to mitigate the significant impacts associated with the same, and to extend certain Executive Orders related to the pandemic; and,

WHEREAS, on April 30, 2020, City Council passed a temporary emergency ordinance (Ordinance No. 2020 -56) to amend Chapter 54 of the Code of the City of Charleston (Zoning Ordinance) by amending the Design Review District Section 54-268.c to allow affordable housing developments to be approved by the Administrative Officer; and,

WHEREAS, on May 1, 2020, by Executive Order No. 2020-30, the Governor rescinded Executive Order Nos. 2020-14 and 2020-19 which had imposed mandatory self-quarantine and lodging and travel restrictions for individuals entering South Carolina from high-risk areas; and,

WHEREAS, on May 3, 2020, Governor McMaster issued an Executive Order (2020-31) modifying his home or work order to urge any and all residents and visitors of the State of South Carolina to limit social interaction, practice “social distancing” in accordance with CDC guidance, and take every possible precaution to avoid potential exposure to, and to slow the spread of, COVID-19, and further encourage residents and visitors of the State of South Carolina to limit their movements outside of their home, place of residence, or current place of abode; and to authorize restaurants to provide outdoor customer dining services in addition to previously authorized services for off-premises consumption; and,

WHEREAS, as of May 8, 2020, the total number of persons infected with COVID-19 in South Carolina was 7,367, with 320 deaths; including 481 cases in Charleston County with 9 deaths and 191 cases in Berkeley County with 14 deaths; and,

WHEREAS, on May 8, 2020, Governor McMaster issued an Executive Order (2020-34) which modified prior orders to authorize restaurants to provide services for limited indoor, on-premises customer dining, effective May 11, 2020, in addition to previously authorized services for off-premises consumption and outdoor customer dining; and,

WHEREAS, on May 12, 2020, Governor McMaster issued an Executive Order (2020-35) declaring an additional fifth (5th) State of Emergency in order to prepare for and respond to the ongoing and evolving public health threat posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, to mitigate the significant impacts associated with the same, and to extend certain Executive Orders related to the pandemic; and,

WHEREAS, on May 12, 2020, Mayor John J. Tecklenburg issued a declaration continuing the local state of emergency in the City of Charleston until May 31, 2020; and,

WHEREAS, on May 12, 2020, City Council passed three temporary emergency ordinances that extended certain temporary emergency ordinances and repealed certain temporary emergency ordinances (Ordinance No. 2020-059); authorized outdoor dining on new and additional areas (Ordinance No. 2020-060); and urged citizens and tourists to stay at home (Ordinance No. 2020-061); and,

WHEREAS, on May 15, 2020, Governor McMaster issued an Executive Order (2020-36) authorizing certain businesses, venues, facilities, services, and activities, including fitness centers, barber shops, and hair salons, previously deemed “non-essential” and previously directed to close, to re-open for access and use by the public, effective May 18, 2020; and,

WHEREAS, on May 21, 2020, Governor McMaster issued an Executive Order (2020-37) allowing additional businesses, venues, facilities, services, and activities, including tourist attractions, indoor children’s play areas, and recreational and athletic facilities and activities, previously deemed “non-essential” and previously directed to close, to re-open for access and use by the public, effective May 22, 2020; and,

WHEREAS, on May 27, 2020, Governor McMaster issued an Executive Order (2020-38) declaring an additional sixth (6th) State of Emergency, extending the State of Emergency to control the spread of COVID-19 and lessen its impacts on portions of the State’s population; and,

WHEREAS, on May 28, 2020, Mayor Tecklenburg issued a declaration continuing the local state of emergency in the City of Charleston until June 30, 2020; and,

WHEREAS, on May 28, 2020, City Council passed an emergency ordinance extending certain emergency ordinances until June 30, 2020 (Ordinance No. 2020-068); and also amending the emergency ordinance on decreasing the risk of exposure to COVID-19 in retail businesses (Ordinance No. 2020-069) and replacing the stay at home ordinance with a new stay at home ordinance (Ordinance No. 2020-070); and,

WHEREAS, on June 11, 2020, Governor McMaster issued an Executive Order (2020-40) declaring an additional seventh (7th) state of emergency, extending the State of Emergency to authorize the continued use of extraordinary measure to meet the threat of COVID-19 and “the evolving nature and scope of this public health emergency...”; and further modifying prior orders relating to organized events or public gatherings on state or local government property and to retail stores required to follow certain emergency rules and restrictions; and further permitting previously deemed “non-essential” businesses operating as bowling alleys to re-open for access and use by the public; and,

WHEREAS, since the first state of emergency declared in our City on March 16, 2020, our citizens have made many sacrifices in their daily lives and it appears those efforts may have helped to flatten the curve in our city; and further, the emergency ordinances adopted by City Council in response to COVID-19 are aggressive steps that have significantly enhanced our efforts to mitigate the threat of exposure to COVID-19; and,

WHEREAS, despite these actions, new cases and deaths due to COVID-19 are continuing to occur in South Carolina, and medical and scientific information predicts that this public health crisis is expected to continue for some time; and,

WHEREAS, as of June 17, 2020, the total number of cases infected with COVID-19 in South Carolina is 19,990 with 607 deaths, including 1,230 cases in Charleston County with 16 deaths and 427 cases in Berkeley County with 19 deaths; and,

WHEREAS, on June 17, 2020, Governor McMaster issued an Executive Order (2020-40) declaring an additional seventh (7th) state of emergency; and,

WHEREAS, on June 25, 2020, Mayor Tecklenburg issued a declaration continuing the local state of emergency in the City of Charleston until July 15, 2020; and,

WHEREAS, on June 25, 2020, City Council passed an emergency ordinance (Ordinance No. 2020-083), temporarily suspending the accrual of the City's business license late fees; an emergency ordinance (Ordinance No. 2020-084), requiring persons to wear face coverings in certain circumstances in the city of Charleston to reduce the risk of exposure to COVID-19 during the public health emergency and recovery; and an emergency ordinance (Ordinance No. 2020-082) extending certain emergency ordinances related to COVID-19, all of which will expire July 15, 2020; and,

WHEREAS, on June 26, 2020, Governor McMaster issued an Executive Order (2020-42) declaring a new state of emergency, which was the eighth (8th) state of emergency in our state; and,

WHEREAS, the number of cases of persons infected with COVID-19 in South Carolina continues to climb at a dramatic rate; the number of cases in South Carolina as of July 7, 2020 is 47,352 with 846 deaths, including 6,073 cases in Charleston County with 41 deaths and 1,703 cases in Berkeley County with 24 deaths; and,

WHEREAS, on July 11, 2020, the Governor issued Executive Order (2020-44) declaring the ninth (9th) state of emergency in South Carolina; and,

WHEREAS, on July 14, 2020, Mayor Tecklenburg issued a declaration continuing the local state of emergency in the City of Charleston until July 31, 2020 based on the continuing threat to our community from the risk of exposure to COVID-19; and,

WHEREAS, acting in response to the continuing threat to public health and safety from COVID-19, City Council passed an emergency ordinance (Ordinance No. 2020-085) extending certain ordinances related to COVID-19 to July 31, 2020, and further amending the previously passed emergency ordinance on face coverings by clarifying the scope of the face covering requirements, limiting indoor occupancy for bars and restaurants, and prohibiting amplified music in bars and restaurants after 9:00 p.m. (Ordinance No. 2020-086); and,

WHEREAS, as of July 21, 2020, the number of cases of persons infected with COVID-19 in South Carolina continues to climb at a staggering rate; with 73,337 cases reported in the state with 1,221 deaths, including 9,785 cases in Charleston County with 103 deaths and 3,092 cases in Berkeley County with 37 deaths; and,

WHEREAS, on July 28, 2020, Mayor Tecklenburg issued a declaration continuing the local state of emergency in the City of Charleston until August 20, 2020 based on the continuing threat to our community from the risk of exposure to COVID-19; and,

WHEREAS, on August 10, 2020, the Governor issued Executive Order (2020-53) declaring the eleventh (11th) state of emergency in South Carolina; and,

WHEREAS, as of August 11, 2020, DHEC has identified at least 101,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in South Carolina, including 2,049 deaths due to COVID-19; this includes 12,377 confirmed cases in Charleston County with 196 deaths and 4,186 confirmed cases in Berkeley County with 67 deaths; and,

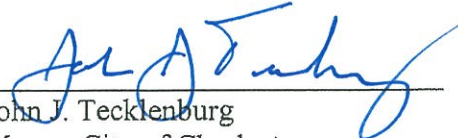
WHEREAS, until the threats posed by COVID-19 to persons, to businesses, and to the public health, safety and welfare of this city are neutralized, emergency conditions exist which require our taking steps to continue to minimize the risk of exposure in public, limit the spread of infection in the community, and limit the burdens on the health care delivery system; and,

WHEREAS, the City is authorized to undertake and coordinate all necessary and reasonable activities for this emergency response, to take all appropriate actions required to alleviate the effects of the coronavirus disaster emergency, including action following the guidelines of the CDC and the DHEC, to and in the aid of essential public services, and to take any other lawful emergency response or action deemed necessary to protect the public health, safety, and welfare of the City of Charleston.

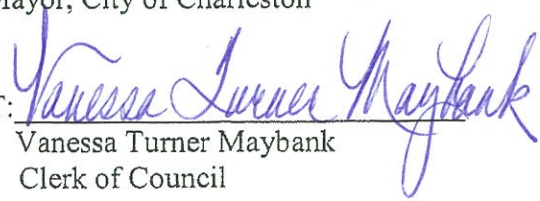
NOW, THEREFORE, I John J. Tecklenburg, Mayor and Chief Executive Officer of the City of Charleston, South Carolina in consultation with and the agreement of the City Council of Charleston, in furtherance of the public health, safety and welfare and based on evolving medical and scientific information do hereby declare effective immediately that the local state of emergency shall continue until September 25, 2020. I further state that I will evaluate the continuing need for this declaration prior to its expiration.

Ratified in City Council this 18th day of August in the Year of Our Lord, 2020, and in the 245th 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