



CITY OF FERRIS, TEXAS

DECLARATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, in December 2019 a novel coronavirus, now designated COVID-19, was detected in Wuhan City, Hubel Province, China. Symptoms of COVID-10 include fever, cough and shortness of breath. Outcomes have ranged from mild to severe illness; and

WHEREAS, on January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization Director General declared the outbreak of COVID-19 as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (“PHEIC”), and advised countries to prepare for the containment, detection, isolation and case management, contact tracing and prevention of onward spread of the disease; and

WHEREAS, the identification of “community spread” cases of COVID-19 in the United States could potentially signal transmission of the virus may no longer be limited to travel to China, or contact with travelers who have visited China; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Texas Disaster Act of 1975 and TEX. GOV’T CODE §418.1015, the Mayor is designated as the emergency management director of the City of Ferris, Texas and may exercise the powers granted to the governor on an appropriate local scale; and

WHEREAS, a declaration of local disaster and public health emergency includes the ability to reduce the possibility of exposure to disease, control the risk, promote health, compel persons to undergo additional health measures that prevent or control the spread of disease, including isolation, surveillance, quarantine or placement of person under public health observation, including the provision of temporary housing emergency shelters for person misplaced or evacuated and request assistance form the governor of State resources; and

WHEREAS, by this Declaration of Public Health Emergency, I declare all rules and regulations that may inhibit or prevent prompt response to this threat suspended for the duration of the incident; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the authority granted to the Mayor under the Texas Disaster Act of 1975 and TEX. GOV’T CODE §418.1015, I authorize the use of all available resources of State government and political subdivision to assist in the City response to this situation; and

WHEREAS, I, Tommy Scott, Mayor Pro Tem of the City of Ferris, Texas have determined that extraordinary and immediate measures must be taken to respond quickly, prevent and alleviate the suffering of people exposed to and those infected with the virus, as well as those could potentially be infected or impacted by COVID-19;

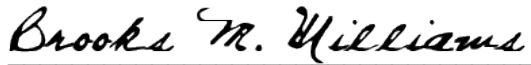
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE CITY OF FERRIS:

1. That a local state of disaster and public health emergency is hereby declared for the City of Ferris, Texas pursuant to §418.108(a) of the Texas Government Code.
2. Pursuant to §418.108(b) of the Government Code, the state of disaster and public health emergency shall continue for a period of seven (7) days from the date of this declaration unless continued or renewed by the City Council.
3. Pursuant to §418.108(c) of the Government Code, this declaration of a local state of disaster and public health emergency shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the City Secretary.
4. Pursuant to §418.108(d) of the Government Code, this declaration of a local state of disaster and public health emergency activates the City of Ferris' emergency management plan.
5. Pursuant to §418.020(c) of the Government Code, this declaration authorizes the City to commandeer or use and private property, temporarily acquire, by lease or other means, sites required for temporary housing units or emergency shelters for evacuees, subject to compensation requirements.
6. Pursuant to §122.006 of the Health and safety Code, this declaration authorizes the City to take any actions necessary to promote health and suppress disease, including quarantine, examining and regulating hospitals, regulating ingress and egress from the City and fining those who do not comply with the City's rules.
7. Pursuant to the statutory authority cited above, I, Mayor Pro Tem Tommy Scott, declare that this declaration hereby limits the size of gatherings to not more than 10 people and mandates the cancellation of all such gatherings until further notice. A "gathering" refers generally to a scheduled event or common endeavor where 10 persons are present in a confined space, room, or area. Additionally, potentially requiring individuals, groups of individuals, or property to undergo additional measures that prevent or control the spread of disease.
8. This proclamation shall take effect immediately form and after its issuance.

ORDERED this the 17th day of March 2020.


-- Tommy Scott, Mayor Pro Tem

ATTEST:


Brooks Williams, City Manager