

ORDINANCE NO.: 2020-031

An Emergency Order Declaring a State of Emergency for the City of Columbia, South Carolina

WHEREAS, SARS-CoV-2 (the Coronavirus) the virus that causes the disease COVID-19 is responsible for an outbreak that began in Wuhan, China, and is a serious public health concern; and,

WHEREAS, on March 6, 2020 the City of Columbia convened a meeting of the Midlands Coronavirus Task Force to begin working with other government agencies in an effort to prevent the spread of the disease; and,

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, the City of Columbia suspended the normal operating procedures for City Council; and,

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020 The World Health Organization declared a world-wide pandemic; and,

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020 the President of the United States, Donald J. Trump declared a national emergency for the United States and its territories over the Coronavirus; and,

WHEREAS, on Friday, March 13, 2020, the Governor of the State of South Carolina Henry McMaster declared a State of Emergency due to the Coronavirus;

WHEREAS, as of March 16, 2020 there have been thirty-three cases reported in the State of South Carolina; and,

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2020, the Governor of the State of South Carolina Henry McMaster imposed a ban of in-restaurant dining and encouraged and recommended curbside and takeout services at restaurants throughout the State of South Carolina due to the Coronavirus effective March 18, 2020; and,

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that it is in the public interest to protect public health and the general welfare of the public to temporarily suspend the normal operating procedures of City Council; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Columbia is working with other government agencies in an effort to prevent the spread of the disease; and,

WHEREAS, Sec. 2-86 of the Ordinances of the City of Columbia allows for the adoption of emergency ordinances on one reading without notice or hearing by affirmative two-thirds of the members present, and shall expire automatically on the 61st day following enactment; and,

WHEREAS, Sec. 7-32 of the Ordinances of the City of Columbia allows for the imposition of a curfew, Sec. 7-33 allows for limitation of application to any area specifically designated and described within the jurisdiction of the city;

WHEREAS, there is an increased risk of the COVID-19 virus spreading within the population at gatherings of large groups such as public festivals and events; and,

WHEREAS, it has been determined by the Mayor and City Council that the temporary postponement of all permits allowing for the congregation at public and private events, festivals and private events to be held on City-owned property or City-owned property operated by another party be implemented effective as of March 16, 2020 in an effort to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council this 17th day of March, 2020, that the City of Columbia hereby declares a State of Emergency for the City of Columbia; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the temporary postponement of all permits allowing for the congregation at public and private events, festivals and private events to be held on City-owned property or City-owned property

operated by another party be implemented effective as of March 16, 2020 in an effort to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus; and,

BE IT FURTHER IMPOSED that a daily curfew is hereby established beginning Wednesday, March 18, restricting travel and public gatherings from 11:00 p.m. until 6:00 a.m. with the exception of persons traveling to and from work and for healthcare; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED IMPOSED that during the curfew, the following persons are exempted and free to travel to carry out their duties: police officers, firefighters, active duty military, health care providers, and public works and utility workers employed by any public utility, the City of Columbia, the Counties of Richland and Lexington, the State of South Carolina and the United States of America.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that this emergency ordinance shall be terminated by the issuance of another ordinance or shall automatically expire on the 61st day after enactment of this ordinance.

Requested by:

Mayor _____

Mayor

Approved by:

City Manager

Approved as to form:

ATTEST:

City Attorney

City Clerk

Introduced: 3/17/2020
Final Reading: 3/17/2020