

## **DECLARATION OF LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY**

WHEREAS, the outbreak of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) within the State of Georgia and the rapidly evolving threat to health and safety posed by that outbreak has created an emergency condition involving public safety and the preservation of public services; and

WHEREAS, the City has noted the increase in confirmed cases of COVID-19 within the State of Georgia and the Centers for Disease Control's (CDC) conclusion regarding the likelihood of more cases; and

WHEREAS, the City notes further the January 31, 2020 declaration of the Secretary of Health and Human Services of a public health emergency in the United States and the World Health Organization's March 11, 2020 declaration of COVID-19 as a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, as of the date of this Resolution, there have been over 420 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the State of Georgia, including thirteen deaths; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 poses a serious risk of severe illness or even death for many people including but not limited to the public at large, the citizens of the City of Lilburn and all City personnel as well as the elected and appointed officials of the City of Lilburn; and

WHEREAS, Populations identified by the CDC who are particularly vulnerable include many members of the public; and

WHEREAS, in February of this year, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued "Interim Guidance" recommending that all employers consider how best to decrease the spread of COVID-19, including the review of guidance from state and local health officials; and

WHEREAS, significant actions taken to date in response to the threat include the cancellation of essentially all events involving large gatherings of people, the closing of public and private schools, colleges and universities, and the conversion of business and government operations to telework platforms; and

WHEREAS, the President of the United States has declared a national emergency; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of Georgia declared a public health emergency on March 14, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners has declared a local emergency on March 16, 2020, and delegated certain emergency powers to the Chairman of the Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the City of Lilburn, Georgia (the "City") is the duly elected governing authority for the City; and

WHEREAS, based upon the President's Declaration of National Emergency, the Governor's Public Health State of Emergency and the Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners' Declaration of Local Emergency, and in recognition of the number of identified and projected cases of COVID-19 in the State of Georgia, the preventative measures being implemented throughout the State of Georgia, and the severity of risk posed to the public, and given the above public health recommendations from public health authorities, the Mayor and Council of the City of Lilburn believe that it is in the best interests of the welfare of the City of Lilburn and its residents to declare a local state of emergency in order to invoke the power for the Mayor and Council to (1) consider certain enacting one or more emergency ordinances pursuant to Section 2.24 of the City Charter and (2) to consider a resolution to hold all Public Meetings by Teleconference due to emergency circumstances as permitted by OCGA 50-14-1 (g) of the Georgia Open Meetings Act;

IT IS HEREBY DECLARED that a local state of emergency exists due to the COVID-19 pandemic;

IT IS FURTHER DECLARED that this state of emergency is sufficient to permit the Mayor and Council of the City of Lilburn to invoke the power granted by Sec. 2.24 of the City Charter of the City of Lilburn to consider enacting one or more emergency ordinances pursuant to Section 2.24 of the City Charter for so long as the local state of emergency exists; and

IT IS FURTHER DECLARED that the local state of emergency is a circumstance involving public and the preservation of property and public services sufficient for the Mayor and Council to consider a resolution to hold all Public Meetings by Teleconference due to emergency circumstances as permitted by OCGA 50-14-1 (g) of the Georgia Open Meetings Act for so long as the local state of emergency exists; and

IT IS FURTHER DECLARED that this declaration of a local state of emergency shall continue until 30 days after adoption, unless this declaration is renewed by the Mayor and Council of the City of Lilburn or until such time as the Mayor and the City Manager find that the emergency conditions no longer exist.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused this seal to be affixed.

This, the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of March, 2020.

  
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Scott Batterton, Mayor Pro Tem

  
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Attest: Melissa Penate, City Clerk