

RESOLUTION _____

CONTINUATION OF DECLARATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, in December 2019 a novel coronavirus, now designated COVID-19, was detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China, with symptoms including fever, cough, and shortness of breath and with outcomes ranging from mild to severe illness and in some cases, death;

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), advising countries to prepare for the containment, detection, isolation and case management, contact tracing and prevention of onward spread of the disease;

WHEREAS, on March 5, 2020, the World Health Organization Director General urged aggressive preparedness and activation of emergency plans to aggressively change the trajectory of this epidemic;

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a worldwide pandemic;

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is closely monitoring the growing number of cases that have spread into the United States and the identification of “community spread” cases of COVID-19 in the United States signals that transmission of the virus is occurring;

WHEREAS, COVID-19 spreads between people who are in close contact with one another through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes;

WHEREAS, the continued worldwide spread of COVID-19 presents an imminent threat of widespread illness, which requires emergency action;

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, County Judge Glen Whitley issued a Declaration of Disaster Due to Public Health Emergency for Tarrant County, Governor Greg Abbott issued a State of Disaster for all Texas counties, and President Donald Trump declared a State of National Emergency for the United States of America on March 13, 2020;

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Texas Disaster Act of 1975, the mayor is designated as the emergency management director of the City of Fort Worth, and may exercise the powers granted to the governor on an appropriate local scale;

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 persons under public health observation, including the provision of temporary housing or emergency shelters for persons misplaced or evacuated and request assistance from the governor of state resources;

WHEREAS, the Mayor of the City of Fort Worth issued a Declaration of Public Health Emergency on March 13, 2020, an Amended Declaration of Public Health Emergency on March 16, 2020, a Second Amended Declaration of Public Health Emergency on March 18, 2020, and a Third Amended Declaration of Public Health Emergency on March 19, 2020, to implement additional measures to ensure the protection of the general public in the City of Fort Worth;

WHEREAS, Governor Abbott issued Executive Order GA 08 and Commissioner John W. Hellerstedt, M.D. issued a Declaration of Public Health Disaster in the State of Texas on March 19, 2020 to implement statewide measures to address the spread of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, County Judge Glen Whitley issued a Second Amended Declaration of Disaster Due to Public Health Emergency for Tarrant County for COVID-19 on March 21, 2020;

WHEREAS, on March 21, 2020, the Mayor of the City of Fort Worth issued an Amended Declaration of Public Health Emergency for the City of Fort Worth to add additional restrictions to address the spread of COVID-19 and to ensure the protection of the general public in the City of Fort Worth;

WHEREAS, on March 22, 2020, the Mayor of the City of Fort Worth issued an Executive Order to provide clarification about the restrictions imposed by the Fourth Amended Declaration of Public Health Emergency for the City of Fort Worth;

WHEREAS, in accordance with section 418.108(b) the declaration by the Mayor can only be in effect for a period of not more than seven days, unless the same is continued by the City Council of the City of Fort Worth, Texas; and

WHEREAS, the current situation with COVID-19 leads the City Council to believe that the mitigation efforts and emergency response to COVID-19 must continue for more than seven days.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT WORTH, TEXAS:

I.

That the declaration of the public health emergency for the City of Fort Worth, as amended, shall continue in its entirety until May 15, 2020.

II.

That the City's Emergency Operational Plan shall continue to be implemented.

III.

That the Executive Order issued by the Mayor of Fort Worth is hereby ratified and shall be in effect until the Fourth Amended Declaration of Public Health Emergency is expired, is superseded, or is otherwise terminated.

IV.

That this resolution shall take effect immediately from and after its issuance.

ADOPTED THIS ____day of March, 2020.

Betsy Price
Mayor

Mary J. Kayser
City Secretary