

**CITY OF WEST COLUMBIA, TEXAS**  
**MAYORAL DECLARATION OF LOCAL STATE OF DISASTER**  
**DUE TO PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY**

WHEREAS, beginning December, 2019, a novel coronavirus, now designated SARS-CoV2 which causes the respiratory disease COVID-19, was detected in China and has spread throughout the world and on March 11, 2020 was declared a global pandemic by the World Health Organization; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the Governor of the State of Texas issued a proclamation certifying that COVID-19 poses an imminent threat of disaster in the state and declaring a state of disaster for all counties in Texas; and

WHEREAS, the CDC warns that widespread transmission of COVID-19 would translate into large numbers of people needing medical care at the same time, and

WHEREAS, the CDC also warns that schools, childcare centers, workplaces, and other places for mass gatherings may experience more absenteeism; public health and healthcare systems may become overloaded with elevated rates of hospitalizations and deaths; other critical infrastructure, such as law enforcement, emergency medical services, and transportation industry may also be affected; and health care providers and hospitals may be overwhelmed; and

WHEREAS, given, among other things, including the CDC's guidance, there is an ongoing risk and likelihood of COVID-19 positive patients being identified in the City of West Columbia; and

WHEREAS, the City of West Columbia, Texas, is taking extraordinary measures to prevent the spread of this potentially devastating disease in our community; and

WHEREAS, said state of disaster requires that certain emergency protective measures be taken pursuant to the Texas Disaster Act of 1975 relating to Emergency Management and Public Health pursuant to Chapter 418 of the Texas Government Code.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF WEST COLUMBIA, TEXAS:**

**Section 1.** That a local state of disaster for public health emergency is hereby declared for the City of West Columbia, Brazoria County, Texas pursuant to §418.108(a) of the Texas Government Code.

**Section 2.** Pursuant to §418.108(b) of the Government Code, the state of disaster for public health emergency shall continue for a period of not more than seven days from the date of this declaration unless continued or renewed by the City Council of the City of West Columbia, Brazoria County, Texas.

**Section 3.** Pursuant to §418.108(c) of the Government Code, this declaration of a local state of disaster for public health emergency shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the City Secretary.

**Section 4.** Pursuant to §418.108(d) of the Government Code, this declaration of a local state of disaster activates the City of West Columbia's Emergency Management Plan.

**Section 5.** Pursuant to Section 122.005 of the Health and Safety Code, the City is authorized to take any actions necessary or expedient to promote health and suppress disease, including actions to prevent the introduction of a communicable disease into the municipality, including quarantine rules. The City of West Columbia hereby declares that those persons under investigation, management, or quarantine remain within the confines of their homes or in safe, secure facilities during the quarantine period following their exposure to the virus.

**Section 7.** That this declaration shall take effect immediately from and after its issuance.

**DECLARED this the 17th day of March, 2020.**



**CITY OF WEST COLUMBIA, TEXAS**

By: Laurie B. Kincannon  
Laurie B. Kincannon, Mayor

ATTEST:

Kelli R. Kuban  
Kelli R. Kuban, City Secretary