

PROCLAMATION OF THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF WEST DES MOINES, IOWA REGARDING THE COVID-19 VIRUS

WHEREAS, on Friday, March 13, 2020, President Donald Trump proclaimed the COVID-19 virus outbreak in the United States to be a national emergency, finding that COVID-19 poses a serious and potentially deadly threat to the public and the public health, citing information from the Federal Center for Disease Control ("CDC") that serious illness occurs in 16% of COVID-19 cases affecting older people, and appears to place people of all ages with severe chronic medical conditions such as heart disease, lung disease and diabetes at a higher risk of developing serious illness; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization has determined COVID-19 to be a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the disease has been dramatically spread across the globe through contact by those with no known correlation to any affected areas or without contact with those known to be infected, called "community spread," with the Iowa Department of Public Health ("IDPH") now identifying community spread in the Des Moines Metro area and issuing new recommendations for individuals with underlying conditions and alerting all Iowans to be prepared for cancellations and disruptions in routine activities; and

WHEREAS, a high rate of infection has been shown to overwhelm medical systems throughout the world, with numerous governmental entities and epidemiologists warning that community spread in the United States poses the same risk of overwhelming American medical systems; and

WHEREAS, the IDPH has determined that the immediate implementation of several mitigation measures will have the most significant impact on slowing the spread of the virus, including imposing measures that will prevent large gatherings of more than 250 people and taking measures that will consider adjustments to smaller gatherings of high risk groups; and

WHEREAS, it is the duty of the City of West Des Moines, Iowa to provide for the public health, safety and welfare of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, Iowa Code Section 372.14(2) and the City of West Des Moines Code of Ordinance Section 1-6A-2(E) grant the Mayor powers in emergency circumstances when public danger exists to take extraordinary steps to protect the public health and safety.

NOW, THEREFORE, IN CONSIDERATION OF THE FOREGOING, I, STEVEN K. GAER, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF WEST DES MOINES, IOWA, PURSUANT TO IOWA CODE SECTION 372.14(2) AND WEST DES MOINES CODE OF ORDINANCES 1-6A-2(E) PROCLAIM THE FOLLOWING:

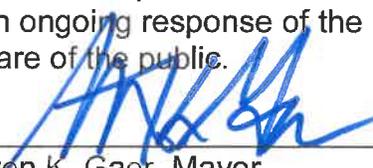
1. I authorize the City Manager to take all actions necessary to provide for the

public health, safety and welfare of the employees and citizens of the City of West Des Moines, including:

- a) withholding approval of all pending permits, licenses or other authorizations, and suspending all current permits, licenses or other authorizations, including but not limited to solicitor's licenses, but excluding alcoholic beverage and mobile vendor permits, which involve face-to-face contact between the permit or license holder and the public;
- b) withholding approval of all pending special event and temporary use permits and suspending current special event and temporary use permits for activities which involve more than ten individuals at one time;
- c) allowing non-essential employees, as determined by the City Manager, the ability to work from home and to continue to pay all employees, including regular full and part-time employees, but excluding intermittent and seasonal employees unless approved by the City Manager or administrative board, in the event those employees are ordered to stay home;
- d) suspending all City policies and procedures which conflict with the emergency directives of the City Manager.

2. I direct the West Des Moines Chief of Police to execute and enforce the directives of this Proclamation and the directives of the West Des Moines City Manager under the authority of Iowa Code Section 29C.18, Iowa Code Section 372.14(2) and Iowa Code Section 331.652.

This Proclamation, which shall be effective immediately and shall terminate March 31, 2020 at 5 p.m. unless otherwise extended, modified or superseded in writing, is part of an ongoing response of the City of West Des Moines to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public.



Steven K. Gaer, Mayor
City of West Des Moines, Iowa