



**CITY OF BELTON, TEXAS
DECLARATION OF LOCAL STATE OF DISASTER
DUE TO PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY**

WHEREAS, a novel coronavirus, now designated SARS-CoV2 which causes the disease COVID-19, has been declared a global pandemic by the World Health Organization; and

WHEREAS, the symptoms of COVID-19 can range from mild to severe illness and cause further complications including death; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 virus mainly spreads between people who are in close contact with one another through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes; 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, on March 19, 2020, the Governor of the State of Texas issued Executive Order GA-08 relating to COVID-19 preparedness and mitigation; and

WHEREAS, Bell County, the Bell County Public Health District and the City of Belton are 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 DECLARED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELTON, TEXAS:

SECTION 1: That a state of disaster for public health emergency is hereby declared for Belton, Texas, pursuant to Section 418.108 of the Texas Government Code.

SECTION 2: That pursuant to Section 418.108(c) of the Texas Government Code, this declaration of a local state of disaster for public health emergency shall be given prompt and general publicity.

SECTION 3: That pursuant to Section 418.108(d) of the Texas Government Code, this declaration of a local state of disaster activates the City of Belton, Texas, emergency management plan, and authorizes the furnishing of aid and assistance under this declaration.

SECTION 4: That this declaration authorizes the City to take any actions necessary to promote health and suppress the virus, including, but not limited to, the quarantine of persons and occupied structures, regulating ingress and egress from the City, regulating ingress and egress to occupied structures, establishment of quarantine stations, and insuring compliance for those who do not comply with the City's rules and directives.

SECTION 5: That this declaration hereby limits the size of gatherings to not more than 10 people and mandates the cancellation of all such gatherings of more than 10 people until further notice. A "gathering" refers generally to a scheduled event or common endeavor where 10 persons are present in a confined space, room or area.

SECTION 6: In accordance with Texas Government Code §418.173, a person who knowingly or intentionally violates this declaration commits an offense, punishable by a fine of up to \$1,000 per day.

SECTION 7: That this declaration hereby authorizes the use of all lawfully available enforcement tools.

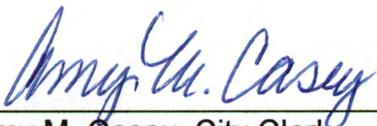
SECTION 8: That this declaration shall take effect immediately from and after its issuance and, upon approval by the City Council, shall continue in effect until terminated by the Mayor. Pursuant to this declaration, additional directives may be issued by the Mayor at any time as deemed necessary.

DECLARED ON THIS 24th DAY OF MARCH, 2020.



Marion Grayson, Mayor
City of Belton, Texas

ATTEST:



Amy M. Casey, City Clerk
City of Belton, Texas