

STATE OF GEORGIA

COUNTY OF FULTON

**AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF SANDY SPRINGS, GEORGIA, UNDER
SECTION 1.03 OF THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF SANDY SPRINGS, GEORGIA,
DECLARING LOCAL EMERGENCY OF THE NOVEL
CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 GLOBAL PANDEMIC**

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the City of Sandy Springs, Georgia (“City”), are charged with protecting the public health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the City; and

WHEREAS, Section 1.04 of the Charter of the City of Sandy Springs, Georgia (“City Charter”) empowers the Mayor and City Council to establish procedures for determining and proclaiming that an emergency situation exists within or without the City, and to make and carry out all reasonable provisions deemed necessary to deal with or meet such an emergency for the protection, safety, health or well-being of the citizens of the City; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization has declared the novel coronavirus known as COVID-19 as a global pandemic (“COVID-19 Pandemic”); and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, President Donald Trump declared a national emergency in response to the outbreak of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 14, 2020, Governor Brian Kemp declared that a public health emergency exists in the State of Georgia due to the spread of COVID-19 within Georgia; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 Pandemic is a public emergency affecting and threatening the safety, health and well-being of the citizens of the City; and

WHEREAS, to prevent or minimize injury to people resulting from this event, certain actions are required;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Sandy Springs, Georgia (“City Council”), that:

SECTION 1. The City Council hereby declares that a state of emergency exists within the City affecting the safety, health and well-being of citizens due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

SECTION 2. The following provisions shall govern the operation of the City during the COVID-19 Pandemic:

2.1 **Essential Services Continued.** All prudent measures will be taken to ensure the continuity of City operations and continuity of essential services including, but not limited to, those related to public safety and health, during the COVID-19 Pandemic. The City will make provisions through its emergency management operations plan to transfer the direction, personnel, or functions of City departments for the purpose of performing or facilitating essential services. This may include provisions for personnel to work remotely if job duties may be performed outside the traditional work environment.

2.2 Access to City Facilities. All City facilities and programming are closed to the public during the term of this Ordinance, unless otherwise directed on the City website at www.sandyspringsga.gov.

2.2 Public Hearings/Meetings of City-Affiliated Entities. All public hearings and meetings of City-affiliated boards, committees, commissions and zoning and administrative entities of the City, such as the Planning Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals, are hereby suspended until this Ordinance is repealed or expires. At the termination of this Ordinance, the scheduling of hearings shall resume in the ordinary course of business, barring further extension of this Ordinance.

2.3 Matters Requiring Public Hearing. All matters requiring a public hearing (with the exception of budget amendments necessitated by public health and safety issues), including but not limited to zonings, special use permits, variances, and regulatory permits (i.e., alcohol) are hereby stayed while this Ordinance is in effect. At the termination of this Ordinance, the scheduling of hearings shall resume in the ordinary course of business, barring further extension of this Ordinance. City staff are directed to work with applicants and those otherwise affected by this stay to ensure that financial impact and/or disruptions to business function is kept to a minimum.

2.4 Existing Regulatory Permits. If there are in effect existing regulatory permits that require a public hearing prior to renewal or extension, and that will lapse in the absence of such renewal or extension, then such permits shall be extended and remain in full force and effect until such time as public hearings are resumed.

2.5 City Council Operations. City Council shall continue to operate and assemble at public meetings, subject to the following:

- (a) Pursuant to the provisions of O.C.G.A. § 50-14-1(g), City Council may conduct public meetings via teleconference while this Ordinance is in effect, without the requirement of having a quorum present in person, so long as notice is provided and simultaneous access is afforded to the public to the teleconference meeting.
- (b) All policy-making functions of City Council (i.e., strategic plans, ordinances, land use planning functions, visioning, development of City-wide objectives and goals, and like activities) shall be suspended while this Ordinance is in effect, except for policy-making and ordinance functions directly related to addressing COVID-19 and related public health and safety issues;
- (c) All zonings, plats, variances, and other land-use decision-making shall be suspended while this Ordinance is in effect;
- (d) All non-essential business (i.e., proclamations, presentations, etc.) shall be suspended while this Ordinance is in effect;
- (e) Contract, budgeting, and fiscal operations shall continue in the ordinary course of business.

2.6 Term of Ordinance. This Ordinance shall remain effective for sixty (60) days from the date of adoption, subject to any re-enaction or repeal hereof. The City Council shall convene at regular meeting or on the call of the Mayor or two (2) councilmembers to re-enact or repeal this Ordinance.

SECTION 3. The City strongly urges all citizens to review and comply with the following

guidelines related to the COVID-19 Pandemic:

3.1 CDC Guidelines for Coronavirus, as they may evolve during the course of the COVID-19 Pandemic, found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>; and

3.2 The President's Coronavirus Guidelines for America, as they may evolve during the course of the COVID-19 Pandemic, found at https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/03.16.20_coronavirus-guidance_8.5x11_315PM.pdf; and

3.3 State of Georgia Guidelines for Coronavirus through the Georgia Department of Public Health, as they may evolve during the course of the COVID-19 Pandemic, found at <https://dph.georgia.gov/novelcoronavirus>.

SECTION 4. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

SECTION 5. If any section, subsection, provisions, or clause of any part of this Ordinance shall be declared invalid or unconstitutional, or, if the provisions of any part of this Ordinance as applied to a particular situation or set of circumstances shall be declared invalid or unconstitutional, such invalidity shall not be construed to affect the portions of this Ordinance not so held to be invalid. It is hereby declared as the intent of the City Council that this Ordinance would have been adopted in its current form without the invalid or unconstitutional provision contained herein.

SECTION 6. This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

SECTION 7. This Ordinance shall automatically stand repealed sixty (60) days after the date upon which it is adopted, unless re-enacted or repealed earlier, as provided herein.

SECTION 8. This Ordinance may be re-enacted (or repealed) at regular meeting of the City Council or at a meeting of the City Council called by the Mayor or two (2) councilmembers. If re-enacted, it shall be for such period of time as may be deemed necessary or appropriate by City Council under the circumstances of the COVID-19 Pandemic existing at the time.

SO ORDAINED this 17th day of March 2020, by the Mayor and Council of the City of Sandy Springs, Georgia.

CITY OF SANDY SPRINGS, GEORGIA

By:



Russell K. Paul, Mayor

Attest

City Clerk

