

SANDY SPRINGS CITY COUNCIL IMPOSES TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS ON OPERATIONS OF EATING AND DRINKING ESTABLISHMENTS AND SOCIAL GATHERING FACILITIES TO HELP PREVENT LARGE NUMBERS OF PEOPLE FROM GATHERING AMID RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SOCIAL DISTANCING RELATED TO COVID-19

SANDY SPRINGS, GA. (March 20, 2020) – During a special-called meeting of the Sandy Springs City Council on March 20, 2020, the City Council approved an amendment to its Emergency Declaration Ordinance imposing temporary restrictions on the operations of restaurants and eating and drinking establishments in an attempt to stop large numbers of individuals from gathering in close proximity.

The measure calls for the temporary closure of bars, nightclubs, gyms and fitness centers, movie theaters, live performance venues, bowling alleys, arcades, and private social clubs (with respect to food services and other indoor gatherings at such social clubs).

Restaurants and other eating and dining establishments where food is served must cease offering dine-in services, but may continue preparing and offering food to customers via delivery, drive-through or take-out services. Patrons, employees and contractors of the establishments must maintain at least six (6) feet of personal distance between themselves as much as possible given the physical constraints of the premises. If a restaurant is licensed by the City of Sandy Springs to sell beer and wine for on-premises consumption, under this amended ordinance, the restaurant may sell unopened bottles of beer or wine for take-out consumption off-premises.

Cafeterias in hospitals, nursing homes, or similar facilities are currently exempt from these restrictions.

“These are unprecedented times, and we need to heed the guidance from health officials,” said Sandy Springs Mayor Rusty Paul. “Based on recommendations from the CDC and local experts, we believe it is in the best interests of the public to restrict opportunities for public gathering while we try to curb the spread of COVID-19.”

The amended ordinance becomes effective at midnight, March 20, 2020, and remains in effect for the time the Emergency Declaration Ordinance is in effect.