

**AMENDED DECLARATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY AND
EXECUTIVE ORDER OF THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF BLAKELY**

WHEREAS, the outbreak of the COVID-19 Corona Virus in the United States has placed the State of Georgia and the citizens of the City of Blakely, Georgia in ongoing and imminent danger; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 continues to spread throughout Blakely, Georgia; and

WHEREAS, the death of one resident of the City of Blakely, due to COVID-19, has been reported; and

WHEREAS, O.C.G.A. §38-3-28(a) provides the political subdivisions of the state with authority to make, amend and rescind such orders, rules and regulations as may be necessary for emergency management purposes to supplement rules and regulations promulgated by the Governor during a state of emergency; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 7.5, Article II of the Official Code of Ordinances of the City of Blakely, entitled "Emergency Management" provides the Mayor with authority to declare a local state of emergency and implement rules and regulations for the purpose of minimizing injury to the people of the City of Blakely and protecting the welfare of the community;

WHEREAS, the Mayor of the City of Blakely has previously entered an order regarding public health and desires to amend that order to provide additional guidelines to minimize the spread of COVID-19 in the City of Blakely; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor of Blakely has determined that extraordinary and immediate measures must be taken to respond quickly to prevent and slow down community spread of COVID-19.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED BY THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF BLAKELY AS FOLLOWS:

(1) **Intent of this Order:** The intent of this Executive Order ("Order") is to ensure that residents of the City of Blakely self-isolate in their places of residence to the maximum extent possible, while enabling essential services to continue, to slow the spread of COVID-19 to the maximum extent possible. When people need to leave their places of residence, they should at all times reasonably possible comply with Physical Distancing Requirements as defined herein (hereinafter "Physical Distancing Requirements"). All provisions of this Order should be interpreted to effectuate this intent. Failure to comply with any of the provisions of this Order constitutes an imminent threat to public health.

(2) This Order is issued based on scientific evidence and best practices regarding the most effective approaches to slow the transmission of communicable diseases generally and COVID-19 specifically, and evidence that the age, condition and health of a significant portion of the population of The City of Blakely places it at risk for serious health complications. One

proven way to slow the transmission is to limit interactions among people to the greatest extent practicable. By reducing the spread of the COVID-19 virus, this Order will help preserve critical and limited healthcare capacity in the City of Blakely.

(3) **All individuals currently living in the City of Blakely shall shelter at their place of residence.** To the extent individuals are using shared or outdoor spaces, they must at all times maintain physical distancing of at least six (6) feet from any other person when they are outside their residence. All persons may leave their residences only for Essential Activities, to operate Essential business, or to perform Essential Government Functions, as defined herein.

(4) All businesses with a physical presence in the City of Blakely, except Essential Business, are required to cease all activities at facilities located within the City. Business may continue operations consisting exclusively of employees or contractors performing activities at their own residences (working from home). To the greatest extent feasible, Essential Businesses shall comply with Physical Distancing Requirements, including but not limited to, when any customers are standing in line.

(5) All public or private gatherings of more than ten persons are prohibited, except for as otherwise expressly permitted herein.

(6) All travel, including but not limited to, travel on foot, bicycle, scooter, motorcycle, automobile or public transit, except to and from essential activities or to travel to and from work to operate essential businesses or maintain essential governmental functions is prohibited. This Order allows travel into or out of the County to perform Essential Activities, operate Essential businesses, or maintain essential governmental functions.

(7) Individuals may leave their residence to perform essential activities, essential government functions or perform work at an essential business.

(8) Individuals may leave their residence to work for or obtain services related to Healthcare.

(9) Individuals may leave their residence to carry out operations specifically permitted in this Order.

(10) Hotels, Motels and other places of lodging may remain open; however, patrons shall be required to stay in their rooms and all rooms shall be thoroughly cleaned and sanitized after the patron's departure.

(11) Religious services, public celebrations and funerals likely to be attended by ten (10) or more individuals should be cancelled or rescheduled.

(12) A mandatory curfew shall be effective between the hours of 10:00 p.m. - 5:00 am. during which all persons within the city shall remain at home. A curfew shall not apply to anyone performing emergency or first responder services, essential government services, law enforcement services, rescue services, safety services, health services, essential utility services or

military services. A curfew shall not apply to anyone traveling to and from or engaging in lawful employment.

(13) Citizens of the City of Blakely shall have extended time to pay City water and utility bills, for the March billing, without disruption of services. Be mindful that balances remain due and should be made current by April 20, 2020 unless otherwise extended.

(14) All deaths occurring within the City of Blakely shall be reported to the Early County Coroner.

(15) For the purpose of this Order, the following definitions apply:

a. **Essential Activities** include:

- i. Activities or tasks essential to the health and safety of Citizens of Blakely or the health and safety of their family or household members, including pets, including but not limited to, obtaining medical supplies or medication, visiting a healthcare professional or obtaining supplies needed to work from home.
- ii. Obtaining necessary services or supplies, such as food, pet supplies, household consumer products and other products necessary to maintain the safety, sanitation and essential operation of residences,
- iii. Outdoor activities, such as walking, hiking, running or bicycling. However, individuals shall not engage in team sports or other activities which result in a gathering of ten(10) or more persons and individuals shall comply with physical distancing requirements.

b. **Essential Businesses** include:

- i. Healthcare operations and essential infrastructure
 1. Essential infrastructure shall include public works, emergency home or business repairs, utility provisions, road repairs and public safety.
- ii. Grocery stores, produce stands, supermarkets, food banks, convenience stores and other establishments engaged in the retail sale of food, dry goods, pet supplies, any other household consumer products (i.e. cleaning and personal care products)
- iii. Food cultivation and production, including farming, livestock and fishing
- iv. Businesses that provide food, shelter or social services for the economically disadvantaged
- v. Newspapers, television, radio and other media services;
- vi. Gas stations and auto supply, auto-repair and related facilities
- vii. Banks, and related financial institutions

- viii. Hardware stores
- ix. Plumbers, electricians, and other services providers performing emergency repairs
- x. Educational institutions for the purpose of facilitating distance learning or performing essential functions, provided that social distancing requirements are maintained
- xi. Restaurants and other facilities that prepare and serve food, but only for delivery or carry out.
- xii. Businesses providing mailing and shipping services,
- xiii. Home-based senior care for seniors, adults or children,

These businesses shall not permit the premises to be occupied by any more than fifty (50%) of its approved occupancy level and shall further encourage patrons to practice physical distancing.

- c. **Essential travel** includes travel for any of the following purposes:
 - i. Travel related to the provision or access to Essential Activities, Essential Business, Essential Governmental Functions, or Minimum Basic Operations
 - ii. Travel to care for elderly, minors, dependents, persons with disabilities or other vulnerable persons.
 - iii. Travel to or from educational institution for the purpose of receiving materials for distance learning
 - iv. Travel to return to place of residence from outside the City of Blakely
 - v. Travel required by law enforcement or court order
 - vi. Travel required for non-residents to return to their place of residence outside the City of Blakely
- d. **Healthcare Operations** shall include
 - i. Hospitals, clinics, dental offices, pharmacies, other healthcare facilities, suppliers, home health services providers, mental health providers, or any related services. Healthcare operations also includes veterinary care and all healthcare provided to animals. Healthcare operations does not include fitness or exercise facilities.
- e. **Physical Distancing requirements** means maintaining a minimum distance of six (6) feet from other individuals, washing hands with soap and water for at least twenty seconds as frequently as possible or using hand sanitizer, covering coughs or sneezes (into the sleeve or elbow, not hand), regularly cleaning high touch surfaces and not shaking hands or other physical displays of affection. These modifications of interpersonal contact are necessary to combat the spread of COVID-19.

(16) All City Parks, and other City-Owned facilities opened to the public shall be closed immediately.

(17) The Blakely Chief of Police, or his designee, shall enforce this order

(18) Violation of this order shall constitute a misdemeanor and shall be punishable pursuant to the Official Code of the City of Blakely with a fine not exceeding \$1,000.00 and /or imprisonment not exceeding 180 days, or both.

(19) This order shall be implemented beginning 12:00 a.m. on March 24, 2020 and shall remain in place until rescinded by the Mayor of Blakely

This order is made pursuant to O.C.G.A. §38-2-28 and is filed in the Office of the Clerk of the City of Blakely. This order was made with due consideration to the orders, rules, regulations, actions, recommendations and requests of federal authorities relevant thereto and to the extent permitted by law shall be consistent with such orders, rules, regulations, actions, recommendations and requests.

SO ORDERED, this 24 day of March, 2020.

MAYOR OF THE CITY OF BLAKELY

By: *Ray Janet Mayor Pro Tem on behalf of*
Hon. Travis Wimbush

Attest: *Melinda Crook*
Melinda Crook, Clerk

