



City of West Palm Beach

Declaration of State of Local Emergency

(Public Health Emergency- COVID-19)

WHEREAS, in late 2019, a new and significant outbreak of a coronavirus (COVID-19) emerged in Wuhan, China, and has been identified in a growing number of international locations including the United States; and

WHEREAS, symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, cough, and shortness of breath which may appear in as few as two days or as many as 14 days following exposure and outcomes have ranged from mild to severe illnesses and in some cases death; and

WHEREAS, on January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization designated the COVID-19 outbreak a Public Health Emergency of International Concern and advised countries to prepare for the containment, including active surveillance, early detection, isolation and case management, contact tracing, and prevention of onward spread of the disease; and

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, the United States Health and Human Services Secretary, Alex M. Azar II, declared a public health emergency for the entire United States to aid the nation's healthcare community in responding to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 1, 2020, Governor, Ron DeSantis, executed Executive Order Number 20-51 declaring a public health emergency and establishing COVID-19 Response Protocol and Directing Public Health Emergency; and

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2020, Governor, Ron DeSantis, executed Executive Order Number 20-52, declaring a State of Emergency in the State of Florida regarding COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a worldwide pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 12, 2020, Governor, Ron DeSantis, suspended official travel for all state employees for 30 days; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, President Donald Trump declared a national emergency in response to coronavirus; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, Palm Beach County executed a State of Emergency Declaration for Palm Beach County; and

WHEREAS, as of March 16, 2020, the Florida Department of Health, Division of Disease Control and Health Protection, reported 4,068 cases of individuals testing positive for COVID-19 in the United States and 131 confirmed Florida cases; 8 of which are in Palm Beach County; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention currently recommends mitigation measures in communities with COVID-19 cases, including recommendations that organizers cancel or postpone in-person events that consist of 50 people or more for the next 8 weeks, and

WHEREAS, it is necessary and appropriate to take action to ensure that COVID-19 remains controlled and that residents and visitors in West Palm Beach, Florida remain safe and secure;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Keith A. James, Mayor of the City of West Palm Beach, Florida, do hereby declare a State of Local Emergency, effective immediately, for the City of West Palm Beach, Florida, pursuant to Chapter 166 and Section 252.38(3)(a)(5), Florida Statutes, and Section 2-2 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of West Palm Beach. This State of Emergency shall be effective for seven (7) days, unless terminated earlier.

FURTHERMORE, pursuant to Section 252.38(3)(a)(5) Florida Statutes, I hereby exercise my authority to waive the procedures and formalities otherwise required by law pertaining to:

1. Performance of public work and taking whatever prudent action is necessary to ensure the health, safety and welfare of the community;
2. Entering into contracts;
3. Incurring obligations;
4. Employment of permanent and temporary workers;
5. Utilization of volunteer workers;
6. Rental of equipment;
7. Acquisition and distribution, with or without compensation, of supplies, materials and facilities;
8. Appropriation and expenditure of public funds.

The State of Emergency may be extended for additional periods of seven days.

This Declaration shall be filed with the City Clerk.

In Witness Whereof, I hereunto set my hand and cause the official seal of the City of West Palm Beach, Florida, to be affixed this 17th day of March, 2020, at 11 a.m./p.m.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "K. James", is written over a horizontal line.

Keith A. James, Mayor