

City of Casa Grande

CITY OF CASA GRANDE EMERGENCY PROCLAMATION DECLARATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, A.R.S. § 26-311 authorizes the Mayor of the City of Casa Grande, Arizona to proclaim the existence of a local emergency when the City of Casa Grande is affected or likely to be affected by a public calamity or disaster and the Casa Grande City Charter and State Law allow the Mayor to govern by proclamation during such times; and

WHEREAS, on March 18, 2020, the Mayor and City Council of the City of Casa Grande adopted Resolution No.5223 declaring an emergency within the City as a result of the threat of the COVID-19 Outbreak and the Mayor of the City of Casa Grande proclaimed an emergency within the City of Casa Grande and set forth certain regulations and orders concerning the operation of the City during this time of emergency; and

WHEREAS, the novel coronavirus, COVID-19, was first detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China in December 2019, and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) considers this virus to be a significant public health threat that has, and continues to spread globally; and

WHEREAS, on January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the COVID-19 illness a public health emergency of international concern and on January 31, 2020 the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services declared a public health emergency due to the COVID-19 illness; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, Governor of the State of Arizona, Douglas A. Ducey, determined that the COVID-19 outbreak presents conditions in Arizona that justified his declaration of a State of Emergency and has issued a number of executive orders for the State to help address the outbreak and the effects thereof on the lives of our citizens; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States of America, Donald J. Trump, found and proclaimed that the COVID-19 outbreak in the United States constitute a national emergency; and

WHEREAS, the City has worked and continues to plan and prepare for event and facility closures, modified staffing plans, work-from-home programs, and enhanced communications to employees and citizens to ensure effective continuity of the essential operations of City government; and

WHEREAS, the widespread nature of COVID-19, including over six hundred fifty cases within the State of Arizona as of March 27th, including at least 36 within Pinal County, continue to pose an immediate threat to life, public health, safety, and welfare, and to the economic well-being of Casa Grande; and

WHEREAS, prudence requires that precautionary measures continue to be taken proactively due to the widespread nature of COVID-19 and its threat to public health, safety, and welfare as referenced in the Governor's Declaration of Emergency, and that impacts from the same threaten public health and safety and the economic well-being of Casa Grande; and

WHEREAS, this local declaration of emergency and the regulations promulgated as a result will help flatten the curve of the pandemic, allowing healthcare resources to be more efficiently employed rather than overwhelmed and by doing so help ensure the long-term social and economic well-being of Casa Grande; and

WHEREAS, the immediate threat of COVID-19 is widespread across the State and precautionary measures are necessary to curtail the imminent impact on numerous homes and businesses in Casa Grande because it is a threat to the health, safety, and welfare of the general public in Casa Grande; and

WHEREAS, in a continuing effort to address the escalating threat of COVID-19 within the City of Casa Grande, the Mayor of Casa Grande seeks to promulgate additional regulations to help slow the spread of COVID-19 within the City of Casa Grande and to better equip the City with the resources and ability to address the effect of this pandemic within the City.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED AS FOLLOWS:

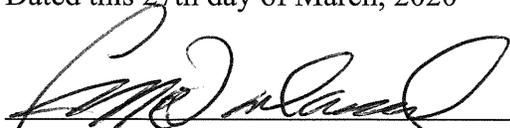
1. The City Manager is expressly authorized to declare that procurements related to mitigating the effects of the spread of COVID-19, assisting the City or its residents with the effects of COVID-19, or other procurements related to the City's preparedness to combat the effects of this emergency, including but not limited to purchases related to the City's Emergency Operations Center, are emergency procurements pursuant to Section 3.04.070 of the Casa Grande City Code and is authorized to suspend or amend other procurement rules where necessary to conduct the usual business of the City in a manner consistent with limiting face-to-face contact and gatherings pursuant to state and federal guidelines.
2. The City Manager's authority to seek and obtain financial and other forms of aid, relief, and assistance from federal, state, and county authorities is hereby expressly affirmed and the City Manager, or his designee, is authorized to take any actions necessary, including but not limited to entering into agreements, filing all necessary paperwork, and taking such actions as he deems necessary and appropriate to seek aid without seeking further approval of the Mayor or City Council of the City of Casa Grande.
3. The City of Casa Grande is committed to actively take measures to safeguard the health of its residents, including the closure or restriction of its buildings and facilities where social distancing is difficult or impossible to encourage or enforce or taking other actions needed to adapt to the most recent advice of national, state, and county health officials. The City also intends to comply with all Executive Orders of the Governor to the full extent practicable, including leaving parks open where appropriate social distancing can be maintained. Because certain facilities, however, make it difficult or impossible to maintain such distancing and appropriate disinfecting of frequently touched services, the City

Manager's authority to close facilities or parts thereof within the park system, such as restrooms, playground equipment, ramadas, or other amenities is hereby expressly affirmed. The City Manager shall seek to allow for open space recreation activities that can safely be conducted, such as hiking on park trails, within the parks to remain open consistent with the Executive Order of the Governor but may seek additional closures in consultation with the Mayor if deemed essential for the immediate protection of the health of the City's residents. The City Manager's authority to close or limit other operations or facilities within the City is also expressly affirmed.

4. During this time of emergency and in order to comply with all recommendations concerning limiting gatherings and face-to-face interaction, all Boards and Commissions meetings, with the exception of City Council and the Planning and Zoning Commission, are temporarily suspended. The City Manager is authorized to allow for a meeting of a Board and Commission other than those listed above if he determines that the Board Meeting should not be postponed due to the immediate necessity of hearing an item, such as a legal requirement imposed by the state or federal government related to the timing of hearing certain items, but shall close all such meetings to physical attendance by the general public, subject to compliance with the Open Meeting Law of the state. To further limit the amount of face-to-face interaction the Council and the Planning and Zoning Commission agendas shall not contain any area for public comment and public hearings should be limited to the maximum extent possible. The City Manager is directed to seek methods to allow for remote participation by all members of the Council or a Board or Commission and to seek methods to allow members of the public all legally required access to listen to meetings and to provide a meaningful method of allowing for comments related to matters on any agenda through alternative means, such as by email or phone call to City staff in advance of any meeting.
5. The City Manager shall have the authority and shall work diligently to prepare lists of essential programs and activities of the City and seek to continue such operations throughout the time of emergency.
6. In addition to the power already granted by the City Code to the Finance Director or City Manager, the City Manager shall have the express authority during the time of emergency to waive late fees for the City's utility billings and provide a temporary moratorium on utility shutoffs, the authority to invoice or bill customers in cases where payment is generally required in advance of services (such as costs pertaining to public records requests) but the ability of the City to take payment is compromised due to changes in operations related to the emergency, the ability to make budgetary transfers as needed to continue operations or make emergency purchases, and the ability to extend any deadlines for licenses (such as pet licenses or business licenses) or other requirements where he deems it appropriate and necessary to help alleviate the spread or effects of COVID-19.

All citizens and businesses are again urged to cooperate with the Proclamations of the City and the Executive Orders of the Governor of the State of Arizona, and to continue to comply with directives and suggestions concerning limiting gatherings, social distancing, and maintaining good personal hygiene and any other advisories or restrictions established by national, state, and local officials.

Dated this 27th day of March, 2020



Craig H. McFarland, Mayor

Attest:



Gloria Leija, City Clerk

Approved as to form:



Brett Wallace, City Attorney

