

**DECLARATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY AND  
EXECUTIVE ORDER**

**WHEREAS**, Garden City, Georgia, has experienced an event of critical significance as a result of the novel coronavirus known as COVID-19; and,

**WHEREAS**, the World Health Organization has declared 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**, COVID-19 is a public emergency affecting and threatening the safety, health and well-being of the citizens of Garden City; and,

**WHEREAS**, in the judgment of the Mayor, with the advice from the Chatham Emergency Management Agency, there exist emergency circumstances located within the entire city limits of Garden City requiring extraordinary and immediate corrective actions for the protection of the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Garden City; and,

**WHEREAS**, this executive order is to minimize the spread of COVID-19 and to prevent or minimize sickness and injury to people and damage to property resulting from this event;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, pursuant to the authority vested in me by local and state law;

**IT IS HEREBY DECLARED** that a local state of emergency exists and shall continue until the conditions requiring this Declaration are abated or until the Declaration expires as a matter of law.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED** as follows:

1. Emergency management operations shall be activated effective 5 o'clock p.m. on March 22, 2020, by the Garden City Emergency Management Department as well as by the Chatham Emergency Management Agency pursuant to that certain Local Emergency and Disaster Mutual Aid Agreement with Chatham County dated on or about April 16, 2016, and by that certain Statewide Mutual Aid and Assistance Agreement by and between the City, Chatham County, the Chatham Emergency Management Agency, and the Georgia Emergency Management Agency/Homeland Security dated on or about April 16, 2016, as re-executed for renewal on February 2, 2020.

2. In addition, the following measures shall be implemented effective 5 o'clock p.m. on March 22, 2020:

(a) All required resources of Garden City shall be made available to assist in activities designed to address this emergency, to control the spread of COVID-19, and to aid in recovery efforts.

(b) All indoor recreation, fitness, and entertainment facilities are to close immediately and shall remain closed until such time as the state of emergency has been lifted or amended.

(c) All public gatherings of 10 or more people are prohibited.

(d) Residents are urged to practice "social distancing" as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control (the "CDC"). Social distancing is the most effective manner of stopping the spread of this emergency. To the extent feasible, it is in the best interest of Garden City residents to not gather in crowds of 10 or more in any location except in an authorized, official government capacity.

(e) Any person showing symptoms recognized by the CDC as indicators of COVID-19 shall refrain from entering public buildings, restaurants, shops, public transportation facilities, and all other areas where the public ingresses or egresses. Such person should seek medical attention and follow the directions of their primary care physician until given the clearance to return to public interaction.

(f) All eating establishments, bars, and nightclubs within the City shall reduce indoor seating capacity and shall additionally ensure that such seating is sufficient to achieve 6-foot social distancing among those customers within the establishment. Restaurants, bars, and nightclubs that cannot achieve the 6-foot social distancing are ordered to close. Restaurants capable of providing delivery, take-out or drive through services are encouraged to increase these services and avoid in-house dining as much as possible.

(g) Eating establishment regulations prohibited in Subsection (f) above shall not include cafeterias located within medical, industrial, government or other such production facilities that are performing essential functions that are necessary to promote health, welfare and vital resources in Garden City. These facilities are strongly encouraged to stagger meal times, limit use as much as feasible to achieve social distancing, and to thoroughly follow CDC protocols of cleaning.

(h) All houses of worship shall strive for density reduction in all services, whether scheduled or based upon a life event such as a funeral or baptism, and wherever practical shall practice social distancing. Houses of worship are further encouraged to use social media or other video outlets to broadcast worship services. Funeral homes shall likewise

strive for density reduction in activities, and shall ensure that vehicles used to transport families will be thoroughly cleaned between uses in accordance with CDC guidelines. Graveside services of 10 or less participants are highly encouraged.

3. Punishment for the violation of this Declaration of Local Emergency and Executive Order is outlined in Section 1-13 of the Garden City Code.

4. The emergency measures set forth in this Declaration shall be in effect for 72 hours or until the next regular, special, or called meeting of City Council, whichever is earliest; but this Declaration may be re-exercised and extended by the Mayor for additional emergency periods upon subsequent declarations of emergencies being made.

ENTERED at 5 o'clock p.m., on this the 22nd day of March, 2020.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don Bethune". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D" and "B".

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DON BETHUNE, Mayor