

CITY OF PETERSBURG, TEXAS
MAYOR'S DECLARATION OF LOCAL DISASTER

WHEREAS, the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) has been recognized globally as a contagious respiratory virus; and

WHEREAS, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, issued a disaster proclamation on March 13, 2020, certifying that COVID-19 poses an imminent threat of disaster for all counties in the state of Texas; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 continues to spread and to present an increasing, imminent threat of disaster throughout Texas; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has advised that person-to-person contact heightens the risk of COVID-19 transmission; and

WHEREAS, the President's Coronavirus Guidelines for America, as promulgated by President Donald J. Trump and the CDC on March 18, 2020, call upon Americans to stem the spread of COVID-19 by avoiding social gatherings in groups of more than 10 people, using drive-thru, pickup, or delivery options at restaurants and bars, and avoiding visitations at nursing homes, among other steps; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Department of State Health Services has now determined that, as of March 19, 2020, COVID-19 represents a public health disaster within the meaning of Chapter 41 of the Texas Health and Safety Code; and

WHEREAS, a declaration of local disaster and public health emergency includes the ability to reduce the possibility of exposure to disease, control the risk, promote health, compel persons to undergo additional health measures that prevent or control the spread of disease, including isolation or quarantine.

WHEREAS, declaring a state of disaster will facilitate and expedite the use and deployment of resources to enhance preparedness and response; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Texas Government Code §418.108 authorizes the Mayor to issue a declaration of local disaster in order to protect and preserve the public health, safety and welfare;

WHEREAS, I, Susan Whitham, the Mayor of the City of Petersburg, Texas have determined that extraordinary and emergency measures must be taken to respond, prevent and alleviate the suffering of the people exposed to and infected with the virus, as well as those that could potentially be infected or impacted by COVID-19;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF PETERSBURG:

1. That a local state of disaster and public health emergency is hereby declared for the City of Petersburg pursuant to §418.108(a) of the Texas Government Code.
2. Pursuant to §418.108(b) of the Government Code, the state of disaster and public health emergency shall continue for a period of not more than seven days from the date of this declaration unless amended or renewed by the City Council.
3. That there is hereby placed a limit on the size of all social gatherings to no more than ten (10) people and mandates the cancellation of all such social gatherings with more than ten (10) people. That the limitation on the size of social gatherings applies to any event that brings together or is likely to bring together, ten (10) or more persons at the same time in a single room or other single confined or enclosed space, such as, but without limitation, any auditorium, stadium (indoor or outdoor), meeting room,