

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 pose 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 16, 2020, call upon Americans to slow 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 visitation 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 81 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, Susie Martinez, the Mayor of the City of Petersburg, Texas have determined that extraordinary and immediate 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 continued 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, and without limitation, any auditorium, stadium (indoor or outdoor), meeting room,

Petersburg Community Center, or any other confined indoor or outdoor space; provided, however, it does not apply to the following:

- A. office space, residential buildings
  - B. grocery stores, gas stations, parks, and banks, so long as the necessary precautions are maintained to reduce the transmission of COVID-19.
4. That the use of the public eating and drinking areas and facilities at restaurants and retail eating establishments is prohibited; provided however, that the use of drive-thru, pickup or delivery services at restaurants and retail eating establishments is permitted and highly encouraged during the term of this Declaration.
  5. That the limitations on the size of social gatherings does not apply to places of worship but all such places of worship are highly encouraged to voluntarily comply with limitations provided in this Declaration.
  6. That pursuant to §418.108 (d) of the Texas Government Code, this Declaration of Local Disaster activates the emergency management plan for the City of Petersburg.
  7. That pursuant to §418.108(c) of the Texas Government Code, the Declaration of Local Disaster shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the City Secretary.
  8. That this Declaration authorizes the City of Petersburg to take any actions necessary to promote health and suppress the COVID-19 virus, including the quarantine of persons and regulating ingress and egress from the City of Petersburg.
  9. That the City of Petersburg and the Mayor are authorized to use all available resources of the City reasonably necessary to comply with this Declaration.
  10. That for all gatherings, it is strongly recommended that citizens adhere to the Social Distancing Protocols established by the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
  11. That pursuant to §418.173 of the Texas Government Code, any person who knowingly or intentionally violates this Declaration commits an offense, punishable by a fine up to \$1,000.00 or confinement in jail for a term that does not exceed 180 days.
  12. That this Declaration shall take effect on March 24, 2020 and continue until renewed, extended, amended or cancelled on its own terms or by the City Council of the City of Petersburg.

SO ORDERED this the 24 day of March, 2020

  
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Mayor Susie Martinez  
City of Petersburg, Texas

  
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Veronica Griego, City Secretary