

**CITY OF ROYSE CITY DECLARATION OF LOCAL DISASTER
FOR PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY**

WHEREAS, beginning in December 2019, a novel coronavirus, now designated COVID-19, has spread through the world and has now been declared a global pandemic by the World Health Organization;

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is closely monitoring the growing number of cases that have spread into the United States and the identification of “community spread” cases of COVID-19 in the United States signals that transmission of the virus is occurring;

WHEREAS, symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, coughing, and shortness of breath and, in some cases, the virus has caused death;

WHEREAS, extraordinary measures must be taken to contain COVID-19 and prevent its spread throughout North Texas, including the quarantine of individuals, groups of individuals and property, and additionally, including compelling individuals, groups of individuals, or property to undergo additional health measures that prevent or control the spread of disease;

WHEREAS, Governor Greg Abbott has declared a state of disaster for all Counties in Texas for COVID-19 on March 13, 2020, and issued Executive Order No. GA-14 on March 31, 2020;

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, President Trump acknowledged the gravity of the COVID-19 pandemic, releasing strict new guidelines to limit people’s interactions, including that Americans should avoid groups of more than 10 people;

WHEREAS, the Mayor for the City of Royse City issued a Declaration of Local Disaster for Public Health Emergency on March 17, 2020;

WHEREAS, the City of Royse City is unique in that it occupies three different counties (Collin, Hunt, and Rockwall) for which, in addition to the Governor’s Emergency Order, such counties have issued a variety of emergency orders. In order to provide a unified enforcement approach for City personnel and to provide continuity to City residents, I hereby direct City personnel to focus enforcement on this Order for purposes of the current emergency situation. If any resident, business owner, or other individual has questions regarding emergency orders issued by another governmental entity, they are to direct those questions to that governmental entity.

WHEREAS, on April 7, 2020, the City Council for the City of Royse City issued an Order Extending Declaration of Local Disaster for Public Health Emergency that affirmed that the Mayor’s order, and modifies the Mayor’s order as set forth below. The Declaration of Local Disaster is extended until rescinded by order of the Mayor or as set forth in this Declaration; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the authority granted to the Mayor under the Texas Disaster Act of 1975, I authorize the use of all available resources of state government and political subdivisions to assist in the City’s response to this situation and hereby activate the City of Royse City Emergency Management Plan as provided for in chapter 418 of the Texas Government Code.

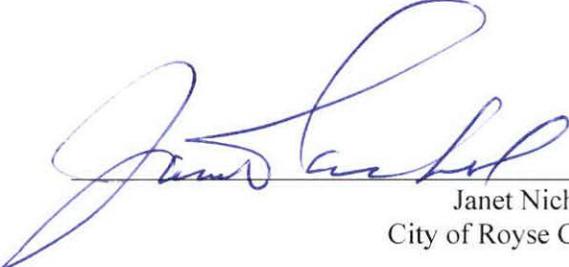
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF ROYSE CITY, COLLIN, HUNT AND ROCKWALL COUNTIES, TEXAS, THAT:

- 1. Executive Order GA-14 issued by Governor Greg Abbott on March 31, 2020.**

City personnel are hereby directed to enforce Executive Order GA-14 as needed. The City Manager is hereby authorized to establish enforcement standards/criteria/policies for City Departments' enforcement of such order. The Municipal Judge, City Attorney, and City Secretary are likewise authorized to establish policies for carrying out enforcement of such order involving matters within their respective departments.
- 2. Isolation of Persons with Coronavirus.** If any member of a household tests positive for coronavirus, all members of the household not admitted to a hospital or other similar healthcare facility are **ORDERED** to isolate at home and cannot attend work, school, or any other community function until directed by a healthcare authority.
- 3. Suspension of Solicitation Permits.** The issuance of any new solicitation permits under Article 4.05 of the Code of Ordinances is suspended. The City Manager is authorized to suspend existing solicitation permits issued under Article 4.05 of the Code of Ordinances as needed.
- 4. Effective Date.** This Order supersedes the March 24, 2020 Order and this Order shall be effective immediately upon signing, or until it is either rescinded, superseded, or amended pursuant to applicable law.
- 5. City Hall actions/waivers.** In an effort to increase social distancing in City owned facilities, the City Manager is hereby directed to take measures to facilitate online payments to and online interaction with the City. The City Manager is hereby authorized to waive online payment fees and to take other measures to mitigate impacts on City residents and businesses (for example, extension of deadlines and waivers from regulatory ordinances).
- 6. Economic assistance.** To develop a plan to mitigate the economic impact on businesses within the City, I hereby direct the Community Development Corporation to establish a program(s) to address such consequences.
- 7. Penalties.** In addition to the penalties prescribed by Executive Order GA-14, the following penalties apply:
 - a. A person who violates any provision of these regulations, upon conviction, is punishable by a fine of not less than Fifty Dollars (\$50) and not more than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000) for each offense.
 - b. A person who violates any provision of these regulations and fails to cease such violation upon a lawful order of a peace officer, upon conviction, is punishable by a fine of not more than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000) or confinement in jail for a term that does not exceed 180 days.
 - c. Upon request by a peace officer who has probable cause to believe that a business has violated this Order, the Director of Public Works may disconnect utility service to such business. Any business whose utilities are disconnected pursuant to this provision is entitled to an appeal of such decision to an administrative hearing process as established in article 7.02 of the City of Royse City Code of Ordinances.
 - d. The City Attorney is authorized to initiate appropriate legal action to revoke the certificate of occupancy upon request by the City Manager, or City Manager's designee, if a business is found to be in violation of this Order
- 8. These regulations shall have the effect of ordinances when duly filed with the City Secretary.**

9. **Cancellation of City meetings.** All meetings, other than City Council and Planning & Zoning meetings, are cancelled for the duration of this Order. The Mayor may cancel, or call, other meetings, so long as there is at least one (1) City Council meeting per month.
10. **Request for Interpretation.** For purposes of interpretation of this Order, the City Attorney is the public official responsible for interpreting this Order as set forth in section 8.03(b) of the Texas Penal Code and the City Attorney is authorized to issue written interpretations of this Order to residents and businesses of the City.
11. The City of Royse City shall promptly provide notice of this Order by posting this Order on their website. In addition, the owner, manager, or operator of any facility that is likely to be impacted by this Order is strongly encouraged to post a copy of this Order onsite and to provide a copy to any member of the public asking for a copy. If any subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this Order or any application of it to any person, structure, gathering, or circumstance is held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a decision of a court of competent jurisdiction, then such decision will not affect the validity of the remaining portions or applications of this Order.

DECLARED this 7th day of April 2020.



Janet Nichol, Mayor
City of Royse City, Texas