

**CITY OF KEENE MAYORAL DECLARATION OF LOCAL STATE OF DISASTER
DUE TO PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY**

WHEREAS, beginning in or about 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; and

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

WHEREAS, the City of Keene is taking extraordinary measures to prevent the spread of this potentially devastating disease in our community; and

WHEREAS, prudence dictates that extraordinary measures must be taken to contain COVID-19 and prevent its spread throughout the City of Keene, including the quarantine of individuals, groups of individuals and occupied structures and, additionally, including compelling individuals, groups of individuals, or occupied structures to undergo additional health measures that prevent or control the spread of the virus; and

WHEREAS, on or about Friday, March 13, 2020, Texas Governor Greg Abbott declared a state of disaster in every Texas county, and thereafter Johnson County declared a local state of disaster, due to public health emergency; and

WHEREAS, on or about Thursday, March 19, 2020, Texas Governor Greg Abbott issued Executive Order GA-08 providing further guidance in addressing COVID-19 preparedness and mitigation; and

WHEREAS, multiple jurisdictions in Texas have issued either declarations, executive orders or enacted ordinances in an effort to address COVID-10.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT DECLARED BY THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF KEENE, TEXAS, THAT:

SECTION 1

A local state of disaster due to public health emergency is hereby declared for the City of Keene, Texas, pursuant to Section 418.108(a) of the Texas Government Code.

SECTION 2

Pursuant to Section 418.108(b) of the Texas Government Code, the state of disaster due to public health emergency shall continue for a period of not more than seven (7) days from the effective date of this declaration unless continued or renewed by the City Council of the City of Keene, Texas.

SECTION 3

Pursuant to Section 418.108(c) of the Texas Government Code, this declaration of a local state of disaster due to public health emergency shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the City Secretary's Office.

SECTION 4

Pursuant to Section 418.108(d) of the Texas Government Code, this Ordinance of a local state of disaster activates the City of Keene's Emergency Management Plan under Chapter 32 of Keene's Code of Ordinances.

SECTION 5

This Declaration authorizes the City to take any actions necessary to promote health and suppress the virus, including the quarantine of persons and occupied structures, examining and regulating hospitals, regulating ingress and egress from the City, regulating ingress and egress to occupied structures, and insuring compliance for those who do not comply with the City's rules, pursuant to Section 122.006 of the Texas Health and Safety Code.

SECTION 6

The City Council of the City of Keene and essential and necessary attendees shall be exempt from this Declaration for scheduled public meetings, whether a regular, work session, special or emergency meeting. The foregoing shall use best efforts to provide adequate social distancing during any scheduled meetings, including any closed sessions. Whenever possible, teleconferencing or videoconferencing shall be utilized for meetings held under this Section.

SECTION 7

This Declaration hereby incorporates by reference the provisions of any Executive Order or similar directive issued by the President of the United States, the Governor of the State of Texas, or the County Judge of Johnson County, Texas.

SECTION 8

This Declaration hereby authorizes the use of all lawfully available enforcement tools.

SECTION 8

This Declaration shall take effect immediately.

SO DECLARED AND ORDERED on this 31 day of MARCH, 2020.



Gary Heinrich, Mayor