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ORDER NO. 6 BY THE COUNTY JUDGE OF EL PASO COUNTY

DATE ORDER ISSUED: MARCH 21, 2020

Robert B. Brown
COUNTY CLERK
EL PASO COUNTY, TEXAS

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

WHEREAS, the 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, on March 19, 2020, the Governor of Texas issued Executive Order No. GA-08 relating to COVID-19 preparedness and mitigation; 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, the following orders shall take effect immediately upon issuance, and shall remain in effect until the state of local disaster is terminated.

NOW THEREFORE, I, COUNTY JUDGE FOR EL PASO COUNTY, PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY VESTED BY TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE CHAPTER 418, HEREBY FIND AND ORDER:

SECTION 1. That the findings and recitations set out in the preamble to this ORDER are found to be true and correct and they are hereby adopted by the County Judge and made a part hereof for all purposes.

SECTION 2. In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, every person in Texas shall avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10 people.

SECTION 3. In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, people shall avoid eating or drinking at bars, restaurants, and food courts, or visiting gyms or massage parlors;

provided, however, that the use of drive-thru, pickup, or delivery options is allowed and highly encouraged throughout the limited duration of this executive order.

SECTION 4. In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, people shall not visit nursing homes or retirement or long-term care facilities unless to provide critical assistance.

SECTION 5. In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, schools shall temporarily close.

SECTION 6. This executive order does not prohibit people from visiting a variety of places, including grocery stores, gas stations, parks, and banks, so long as the necessary precautions are maintained to reduce the transmission of COVID-19. This executive order does not mandate sheltering in place. All critical infrastructure will remain operational, domestic travel will remain unrestricted, and government entities and businesses will continue providing essential services. For offices and workplaces that remain open, employees should practice good hygiene and, where feasible, work from home in order to achieve optimum isolation from COVID-19. The more that people reduce their public contact, the sooner COVID-19 will be contained and the sooner this order will expire.

SECTION 7. This order supersedes all previous orders on this matter that are in conflict or inconsistent with its terms, and this order shall remain in effect until the state of local disaster is terminated, subject to being extended, modified, amended, rescinded, or superseded by me.

ORDERED this the 21st day of March, 2020, in El Paso County, Texas.



Ricardo A. Samaniego
El Paso County Judge