

**AN ORDINANCE
DECLARING A STATE OF EMERGENCY FOR CHARLESTON COUNTY
DUE TO THE THREATS POSED BY THE 2019 NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (“COVID-19”)**

WHEREAS, pursuant to the authority granted to Charleston County Council (“County Council”) under S.C. Code Ann. § 4-9-130 and the provisions of the Code of Ordinances of Charleston County, South Carolina, Chapter 7, Emergency Preparedness, and the Charleston County Emergency Preparedness Plan, County Council finds it necessary to declare a State of Emergency for the reasons set forth below; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States of America declared that the COVID-19 outbreak in the United States constitutes a national emergency, that began on March 1, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of South Carolina declared a state of emergency through the issuance of Executive Order 2020-08, dated March 13, 2020, finding that COVID-19 presents a threat to the public health, communities, and the general safety and welfare of the people of South Carolina; and

WHEREAS, Charleston County Council finds that a State of Emergency exists due to the potential health effects and health risks posed by COVID-19 and that COVID-19 poses an actual or imminent public health emergency for the citizens of Charleston County; and

NOW, THEREFORE, Charleston County Council hereby adopts the above-referenced recitals herein as findings of County Council by reference, declares that a State of Emergency exists as described below, and directs that the Administrator and County staff exercise the authority set forth below;

The areas of Charleston County affected by this Emergency Declaration include all portions of Charleston County. This State of Emergency shall continue for a period of (15) days unless sooner terminated by act of Charleston County Council.

Pursuant to the powers provided in the Code of Ordinances of Charleston County, South Carolina, Chapter 7, Emergency Preparedness, the County Administrator and Director of Emergency Preparedness, in consultation with the Chairman of County Council, shall issue all such orders and directives as they deem necessary to protect public life, health and safety in carrying out the following duties and responsibilities:

1. Utilize all available resources of County Government as reasonably necessary to cope with a disaster emergency.
2. Direct the personnel and functions of County Departments and agencies or units thereof for purposes of facilitating or performing emergency services as reasonably necessary and to implement emergency compensation plans for the performance of the same. Implement the duties and functions assigned in the County Emergency Operations Plan.
3. Implement the duties and functions assigned in the County Emergency Operations Plan.
4. Suspend the Charleston County Procurement Ordinance to allow for the immediate procurement of supplies, services and construction due to the threat to public health, welfare, and safety.

5. Implement the Order of the Governor of the State if such action is deemed necessary for preservation of life or other mitigation, response or recovery.
6. Control ingress and egress to and from the area, the movement of persons within the area and the occupancy of premises therein.
7. Make provisions for the availability and use of temporary housing.
8. Suspend or limit non-emergency activities and public assemblies.
9. Suspend the collection of County and municipal accommodations and hospitality taxes as agreed to by local municipalities as applicable.
10. Suspend enforcement of Ordinance 2047 (the "Plastic Bag Ordinance").
11. Authorize the establishment and extension, as necessary, of a curfew in the unincorporated areas of Charleston County at dates and times to be determined in consultation with the officials of municipalities in Charleston County and in coordination with the Chairman of Charleston County Council, during which the streets and all public rights-of-way and public property thereof shall be closed to the general public for travel, both vehicular and pedestrian. Violation of this ordinance shall be punishable by a fine of not more than five hundred dollars and/or 30 days in jail.

Due to the potential health effects and risks posed by COVID-19 resulting from public assemblage, the Chairman shall be authorized to conduct special committee meetings of council via video and/or teleconference whereby council members and the public may attend and participate remotely for the purpose of updates and briefings of County Council.

If, for any reason, a court of competent jurisdiction invalidates any part of this Ordinance, the remaining portions of this Ordinance shall remain in full force.

THIS DECLARATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY enacted this 17st day of March 2020.

CHARLESTON COUNTY

By: _____
J. Elliott Summey, Chairman
Charleston County Council