

**EMERGENCY ORDINANCE DECLARING  
A STATE OF EMERGENCY  
FOR CHARLESTON COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA AND  
PROCLAMATION OF CURFEW AND RELATED  
REGULATIONS DUE TO CIVIL UNREST**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Section 4-9-130 of the South Carolina Code of Laws and Section 7-21 of the Charleston County Code of Ordinances, Charleston County Council has the authority to declare a state of emergency and may issue proclamations and regulations concerning emergency situations, with those proclamations and regulations having the full force and effect of law; and

**WHEREAS**, on May 30, 2020, hundreds of persons committed violent acts of looting, arson, property damage, and assaults in several areas of Charleston County, following otherwise peaceful protests; and

**WHEREAS**, additional threats of damage to businesses and property have been disseminated via social media and other means, and social media is being used to incite additional damage and criminal activity; and

**WHEREAS**, the criminal acts that have been threatened to occur may result in substantial injury or harm to the population or substantial damage to or loss of property; and

**WHEREAS**, these occurrences and threat of continued occurrences pose a threat to the public health, safety, and welfare; and

**WHEREAS**, violence has occurred in other communities around the country that required the imposition of curfews; and

**WHEREAS**, in order to protect the public health, life, safety, and property, local law enforcement has requested the establishment of a curfew; and

**WHEREAS**, prompt and efficient action is necessary to safeguard lives and property affected by the Emergency.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, PURSUANT to the authority conferred by §§ 4-9-30 and 4-9-130 of the South Carolina Code of Laws and §7-21 of the Charleston County Code of Ordinances, and in consultation with municipal authorities, Charleston County Council, in a meeting duly assembled, finds as follows:

1. **State of Emergency.** A local State of Emergency exists requiring immediate and expeditious action because of the past destruction of property and continued threat of harm to citizens and businesses within Charleston County, and will continue to exist until Friday, June 5, 2020 at 6:00 a.m., unless sooner ended or as may be extended.

2. Curfew.

- (a) In order to protect the public health, life, safety, and property, a **CURFEW** is established in all unincorporated areas of Charleston County **BEGINNING AT 6:00 P.M. ON JUNE 1, 2020 AND ENDING AT 6:00 A.M. ON TUESDAY, JUNE 2, 2020.**
- (b) This curfew also applies in any municipality of the County which has adopted this proclamation by reference.
- (c) The curfew applies to all pedestrian and vehicular movement, except for: individuals participating in, going to, or returning from employment, including, but not limited to, federal, state, and essential local government employees and public safety personnel acting in their official capacities and duties, those providing hospital and other health care services, veterinary services personnel, postal and shipping services personnel, and those performing utility and telecommunications repairs. Persons seeking medical care and persons seeking emergency veterinary services for an animal are excluded from the curfew. Credentialed news media are also exempt from this curfew while engaged in news gathering duties.
- (d) Refusal to comply with the curfew herein is unlawful and punishable in accordance with Section 1-8 of the Charleston County Code of Ordinances by a fine of not more than \$500.00 or imprisonment for not more than 30 days.

Dated this 1<sup>st</sup> day of June, 2020.

CHARLESTON COUNTY,  
SOUTH CAROLINA



By:

  
J. Elliott Summey, Chairman