

## **DECLARATION OF LOCAL DISASTER FOR NEW BRAUNFELS, TEXAS**

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

**WHEREAS**, symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, cough and shortness of breath, and outcomes have ranged from mild to severe illness and in some cases death; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization Director General declared the outbreak of COVID-19 as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern and advised countries to prepare for the containment, including active surveillance, early detection, isolation and case management, contact tracing, and prevention of onward spread of the disease; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 5, 2020, the World Health Organization Director General urged aggressive preparedness and activation of emergency plans to aggressively change the trajectory of this epidemic; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020, President Trump declared a National State of Emergency under the Stafford Act to combat the growing COVID-19 pandemic in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020, Governor Greg Abbott declared a State of Disaster for all 254 Counties in the State of Texas; and

**WHEREAS**, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is closely monitoring the growing number of COVID-19 cases that have spread into the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 15, 2020, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention issued guidance and a statement that large events and gatherings such as conferences, festivals, parades, concerts, sporting events, weddings, and other types of assemblies can contribute to the spread of COVID-19 in the United States via travelers who attend such events and introduce the virus to new communities; and

**WHEREAS**, based on revised guidance by the U. S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued on March 16, 2020, the public is strongly urged to avoid social gatherings in groups of more than ten (10) people; and

**WHEREAS**, a declaration of local disaster includes the ability to take measures to reduce the possibility of exposure to disease and mitigate the risk to, and promote the health and safety of, the residents of the City of New Braunfels; and

**WHEREAS**, the measures identified in this Declaration are designed to prevent deaths in the City of New Braunfels; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the Texas Disaster Act of 1975, the Mayor is designated as the Emergency Management Director of the City of New Braunfels, and may exercise the powers granted to the governor on an appropriate local scale.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NEW BRAUNFELS, TEXAS:**

Section 1. **Declaration of Local State of Disaster.** A local state of disaster due to this health emergency is hereby declared by the Mayor of the City of New Braunfels, pursuant to Section 418.108 of the Texas Disaster Act.

Section 2. **Duration of Local State of Disaster.** Pursuant to Section 418.108(b) of the Texas Disaster Act, the local state of disaster due to this health emergency issued in this Proclamation shall continue until revoked, but in no event will it exceed a period longer than seven (7) days of the date hereof, unless continued or renewed by the consent of the City Council of the City of New Braunfels.

Section 3. **Publicity and Filing.** Pursuant to Section 418.108(c) of the Texas Disaster Act, this declaration of a local state of disaster due to this health emergency shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the City Secretary.

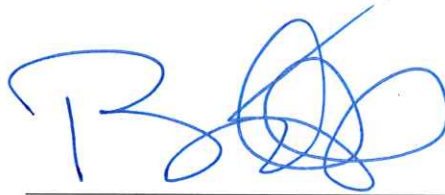
Section 4. **Activation of the City Emergency Management Plan.** Pursuant to Section 418.108(d) of the Texas Disaster Act, this declaration of a local state of disaster due to this health emergency activates the City of New Braunfels Emergency Management Plan.

Section 5. **Authority to Promote Health and Safety.** Pursuant to Section 122.006 of the Health and Safety Code, this declaration authorizes the City to take any actions necessary to promote health and suppress disease, including quarantine, and regulating hospitals, regulating ingress and egress from the City, and fining those who do not comply with the City's rules.

Section 6. **Emergency Powers.** By this declaration, I declare all rules and regulations that inhibit or prevent prompt response to this threat are suspended for the duration of the incident, and authorize the City Manager to exercise all emergency powers as are available to address this emergency.

Section 7. **Effective Date.** This Declaration shall take effect immediately upon its issuance by the Mayor of the City of New Braunfels.

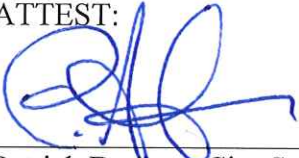
ORDERED this the 17<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020, in the City of New Braunfels, Comal County, Texas, in witness whereof I hereunto subscribe my name.



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BARRON CASTEEL,  
Mayor of New Braunfels, Texas

ATTEST:



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Patrick D. Aten, City Secretary

