DECLARATION OF DISASTER AND PUBLIC EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, in December 2019, a novel coronavirus, now designated COVID-19, was detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China. Symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, cough, and shortness of breath. 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 (PHEIC), advising countries to prepare for the containment, detection, isolation and case management, contact tracing and prevention of onward spread of the disease; and

WHEREAS, to date, there have been numerous positive cases in Texas; and

WHEREAS, on Wednesday March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the crisis is now a pandemic after it has infected roughly 189,000 people around the world and killed 7,511. 4,752 cases have been confirmed in the United States according to WHO.

WHEREAS, the virus is characterized by mild symptoms including a runny nose, sore throat, cough and fever, similar to the influenza where in severe cases it can lead to pneumonia or breathing difficulties according to WHO; and

WHEREAS, those with symptoms who have traveled to or been in contact with and individual who has traveled to a country that has coronavirus in the last two weeks are urged to see their physician; and

WHEREAS, the disease can be fatal but only in older individuals and those with other medical conditions such as asthma, diabetes or heart disease may be more vulnerable in becoming severely ill; and

WHEREAS, due to pandemic, President Donald J. Trump announced a month long travel restriction to several countries confirmed to have cases of the coronavirus that has gone into effect; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, President Trump declared a state of emergency due to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, President Trump is expected to invoke the Stafford Act, which will allow state and local governments to access federal disaster relief funds; and
WHEREAS, pursuant to the Texas Disaster Act of 1975, the Mayor is designated as the Emergency Management Director of the City of Pleasanton, and may exercise the powers granted to the governor on an appropriate local scale; and

WHEREAS, Section 418.108(a) of the Texas Government Code provides that the presiding officer of the governing body of a political subdivision may declare a state of local disaster; and

WHEREAS, a declaration of local disaster and public health emergency includes the ability reduce the possibility of exposure to disease, control the risk, promote health, compel persons to undergo additional health measures that prevent or control the spread of disease, including the provision of temporary housing or emergency shelters for persons misplaced or evacuated and request assistance from the governor of state resources; and

WHEREAS, by this Declaration of Disaster and Public Health Emergency, I declare all rules and regulations that may inhibit or prevent prompt response to this threat suspended for the duration of the incident; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the authority granted to the Mayor under Texas Disaster Act of 1975, I authorize the use of all available resources of state government and political subdivisions to assist in the City’s response to this situation; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, Greg Abbott, the Governor of the State of Texas, issued a proclamation that declared COVID-19 as an imminent threat of disaster; and

WHEREAS, on March 15, 2020, the CDC issued further revised guidance regarding social distancing and mass gatherings of 50 or more people; and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, the CDC issued further revised guidance that persons should avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10 people; and

WHEREAS, I, Travis Hall Jr., Mayor of the City of Pleasanton, Texas, have determined that extraordinary and immediate measures must be taken to respond quickly, prevent and alleviate the suffering of people exposed to and those infected with the virus, as well as those that could potentially be impacted by COVID-19.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE MAYOR OF PLEASANTON:

1. That a local state of disaster and public health emergency is hereby declared for the City of Pleasanton pursuant to the Texas Disaster Act of 1975 and Texas Government Code §418.108(a).

2. Pursuant to §418.108(b) of the Government Code, the state of disaster and public health emergency shall continue for a period of not more than seven (7) days from the date of this declaration unless continued or renewed by the City Council.
3. Pursuant to §418.108(c) of the Government Code, the state of disaster and public health emergency shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filled promptly with the City Secretary.

4. Pursuant to §418.108(d) of the Government Code, this declaration activates the City of Pleasanton’s emergency management plan.

5. Pursuant to §418.1020(c) of the Government Code, this declaration authorizes the city to commandeer or use any private property, temporarily acquire, by lease of other means, sites required for temporary housing units or emergency shelters for evacuees, subject to compensation requirements.

6. Pursuant to §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 for the City, and fining those who do not comply with the City’s rules.

7. By this declaration, I declare all rules and regulations that may 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.

8. Pursuant to the Texas Disaster Act of 1975, I Mayor Travis Hall, Jr., as Mayor of the City of Pleasanton, issue further guidance and restrictions set out within the Declaration Regarding Public and Private Gatherings attached hereto as Exhibit 1, and incorporated herein.

9. This declaration shall take effect immediately from and after its issuance.

ORDERED this the 18th day of March 2020.

Travis Hall, Jr.
Mayor, City of Pleasanton

ATTEST:

Andres Aguirre
City Secretary, City of Pleasanton
EXHIBIT 1

Declaration Regarding Public and Private Gatherings

1. The virus that causes COVID-19 is easily transmitted, especially in group settings, and it is essential that the spread of the virus be slowed to protect the ability of public and private health care providers to handle an influx of patients and safeguard public health and safety.

2. Because of the risk of the rapid spread of the virus, and the need to protect the most vulnerable members of the community, this Declaration prohibits all indoor public and private gatherings and outdoor gatherings within an enclosed space of 50 persons or more anywhere in the City of Pleasanton beginning at 11:59 PM on March 18, 2020 and continuing for seven (7) days, unless extended consistent with requirements of state law.

3. Based on revised guidance by the United States 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.

4. It is strongly recommended that every person exercise the social distancing protocols established by the CDC and found within the "Implementation of Mitigation Strategies for Communities with Local COVID-19 Transmission" issued by the CDC on or around March 11, 2020 (available online at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/community-mitigation-strategy.pdf). For example, all bars, restaurants, and other public food service locations should include placing tables at least 6 feet away from each other, and limiting bar seating and service to standing patrons consistent with this guidance.

5. Further, organizations that serve high-risk populations (defined below) should also follow CDC guidance for social distancing.

6. Definitions and further guidance:
   a. For purposes of this Declaration, a "Mass Gathering" is any event or convening, subject to the exceptions and clarifications below, that brings together or is likely to bring together fifty (50) or more persons at the same time in a single room or other single confined or enclosed space, such as, by way of example and without limitation, an auditorium, theatre, stadium (indoor or outdoor), arena or event center, meeting hall, conference center, large cafeteria, or any other confined indoor or confined outdoor space.

   b. A "Mass Gathering" includes events in confined outdoor spaces, which means an
outdoor space that (i) is enclosed by a fence, physical barrier, or other structure and (ii) where people are present and they are within arm's length of one another for extended periods.

c. This Declaration also does not prohibit gatherings of people in multiple, separate enclosed spaces in a single building such as a multiplex movie theater, so long as 50 people are not present in any single space at the same time. This Declaration also does not prohibit use of enclosed spaces where 50 or more people may be present at different times during the day, so long as 50 or more people are not present in the space at the same time. For any gathering covered by this subsection c., compliance with Social Distancing Recommendations, including providing hand sanitizer and tissues and increasing cleaning of commonly touched surfaces is strongly encouraged.

d. For purposes of clarity, a "Mass Gathering" does not include the following:
   (i) Pleasanton Municipal Airport;
   (ii) public or private schools and places of worship;
   (iii) museums (so long as visitors are generally are not within arm's length of one another for extended periods);
   (iv) spaces where 50 or more persons may be in transit or waiting for transit such as bus stops;
   (v) office space, hotels, or residential buildings;
   (vi) grocery stores, outdoor markets, bars, restaurants, and other public food service locations, or other retail establishments where large numbers of people are present but it is unusual for them to be within arm's length of one another for extended periods;
   (vii) medical facilities, and
   (viii) funeral homes

In all such settings, it is recommended that the public follow Social Distancing Recommendations, and harm reduction measures such as hand sanitizer and tissues should be provided when possible. However, any specific large gathering space that is part of any building included in this subparagraph d. is subject to the prohibition on Mass Gatherings if the space holds 50 or more people.

e. "High-Risk Populations" include people who are:
   • 60 years old and older;
   • People with certain health conditions such as heart disease, lung disease, diabetes, kidney disease and weakened immune systems;
   • People experiencing homelessness.