

**IN THE CITY OF LANCASTER, SOUTH CAROLINA**

**ARTICLE I, PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY  
CHAPTER 15, OFFENSES & MISCELLANEOUS**

**---STATE OF EMERGENCY PROCLAMATION---**

**WHEREAS**, Section 15-9 of the City of Lancaster Code of Ordinances authorizes and empowers the Mayor to issue a public proclamation declaring the existence of a state of emergency threatening the lives, safety, health, and welfare of the people within the City; and

**WHEREAS**, the President of the United States declared a national state of emergency on March 13, 2020, authorizing emergency federal funds and requesting local emergency action plans be activated; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governor of South Carolina declared a state of emergency on March 13, 2020, to enhance the State's response to COVID-19 virus's impact on the State; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governor of South Carolina, on March 14, 2020, through a letter to the Office of Regulatory Staff to effectuate his request that all regulated utilities and cooperatives and those not under the jurisdiction of the Office of Regulatory Staff to not disconnect utility services for nonpayment during the current state of emergency; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governor of South Carolina, on March 15, 2020, ordered all public schools in South Carolina to close until March 31, 2020, in an effort to stop the spread of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governor of South Carolina, on March 17, 2020, ordered all restaurants and bars to close their dine-in service, and prohibited public events over 50 people in publicly owned places; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States Internal Revenue Service postpone the April 15 tax deadline for 90 days due to COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, on March 18, 2020 reported 60 positive test of COVID-19 in South Carolina, including two confirmed cases in Lancaster County; and

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19 presents the threat of injury to persons in the City of Lancaster to such an extent that extraordinary and emergency measures may need to be taken to protect the public health; and

**WHEREAS**, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control recommend steps to be taken to minimize unnecessary person-to-person contact.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED** by the Mayor of the City of Lancaster, that a state of emergency exists in the City of Lancaster as is defined by §15-9 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Lancaster.

**IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED** that members of the City Council will be authorized during this state of emergency to attend meetings of Council via teleconference. Such meetings notices will be posted in accordance with the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act for Council Members to attend by physical, virtual, or call-in attendance, in their discretion, as individuals may be included in a health-compromised class.

**IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED** that all of the other City Commission, Board, and Committee meetings are temporarily suspended.

**IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED** that City operational functions will remain on a normal schedule; however steps will be put into place to provide additional protective measure including but not limited to canceling all City events, activities, appearances, or functions involving group gatherings of ten or more people; suspending reservation of City park picnic shelters; limiting access to City owned buildings to only City employees and authorized personnel; limiting employee business travel to essential; conducting City business via telephone, internet, drop-box, online payments, and drive thru windows; and modifying personnel requirements, practices, procedures, and providing for remote access to the workplace for non-essential personnel.

**IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED** that all in-home inspections will be halted and live stream and/or digital pictures from the permit holder will be acceptable verification of the work completed.

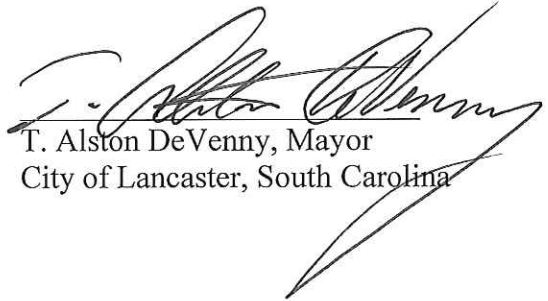
**IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED** that § 15-5 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Lancaster prohibiting curb service will not be enforced and the Sanitation and Maintenance Operations Department is hereby directed to provide reasonable assistance in ensuring the safety of customers partaking with curb service on City streets.

**IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED** that the City's water service will not be disconnected for nonpayment during the declared state of emergency and furthermore the delinquency fee for nonpayment shall be suspended. Customers are still obligated to pay their utility bills as the suspension of disconnect is not intended to provide free service but instead to ensure residents have access to water for washing of their hands.

**IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED** that the deadline for all businesses subject to an annual business license renewal shall be June 30, 2020 and the first day of the 2020 Business License Year will be July 1, 2020. All new businesses filing for a business license are still require to comply in full with Chapter 12 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Lancaster.

**IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED** that this State of Emergency Proclamation shall expire on the sixty-first day after the date of issuance, unless the state of emergency declared by the Governor is lifted prior to that date.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto sent my hand and caused the Official Seal of the City of Lancaster to be affixed this 19<sup>th</sup> day of March 2020.



T. Alston DeVenny, Mayor  
City of Lancaster, South Carolina

**ATTEST:**



Tracy Rabon, City Clerk

