

RESOLUTION R20-16

A RESOLUTION STRONGLY ENCOURAGING ALL RESIDENTS TO PERFORM THEIR PATRIOTIC DUTY BY WEARING FACE COVERINGS IN PUBLIC AND TO URGE THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA TO TAKE THE APPROPRIATE ACTIONS IN MANDATING FACE COVERINGS

WHEREAS, the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (“COVID-19”) is a respiratory disease in which one key transmission method of the virus is through respiratory droplets that people expel when they breathe, cough, or sneeze that can result in serious illness or death; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a Public Health Emergency of International Concern on January 30, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (the “CDC”) has warned of the high public health threat posed by COVID-19 globally and in the United States; and

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Health and Human Services Secretary declared a public health emergency in the United States for COVID-19 under Section 391 of the Public Health Service Act; and

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

WHEREAS, also on March 13, 2020, the Governor of the State of South Carolina (the “State”) issued Executive Order 2020-08, declaring a State of Emergency based on a determination that the COVID-19 poses an actual or imminent public health emergency for the State; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State has subsequently declared a continued State of Emergency in Executive Orders 2020-15 (March 28), 2020-23 (April 12), 2020-29 (April 27), 2020-35 (May 12), 2020-38 (May 27), and 2020-40 (June 11); and

WHEREAS, the State is experiencing a dramatic increase in the number of identified new COVID-19 cases, and as of June 25, 2020, the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (“DHEC”) is reporting that there have been 27,842 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 683 confirmed COVID-19 deaths in the State; and

WHEREAS, if COVID-19 cases continue to increase in the State, Lancaster County, and in the City of Lancaster, the demand for medical, pharmaceutical, personal, and general cleaning supplies may overwhelm sources of supply; the private and public sector work force may be negatively impacted by absenteeism; and the demand for medical facilities may exceed locally available resources; and

WHEREAS, the CDC has confirmed from recent studies that a significant portion of individuals with COVID-19 lack symptoms and that even those who eventually develop symptoms can transmit the virus to others before showing symptoms; and

WHEREAS, health authorities, including the CDC, the Surgeon General of the United States, and DHEC have recommended the use of face coverings as a means of preventing the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the South Carolina Code of Laws, among other things, obligate the City Council to protect the life, health, safety, and general welfare of its residents and visitors; and

WHEREAS, the successful flattening of the COVID-19 curve can be accomplished by a uniform face covering policy for all the residents and visitors of the State.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the City of Lancaster, South Carolina, in Council assembled, that all employees, customers, patrons, residents, and visitors to the City of Lancaster are strongly encourage to wear a face covering over their nose and mouth while in indoor places of business, while riding in a vehicle with people from outside one's household, as well as in outdoor environments and heavily-traveled public rights-of-way where one might come in near contact with persons from outside of one's own household.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that businesses and public places in the City of Lancaster are encouraged to prominently post signage at all entrances urging patrons, clients, and visitors to wear face coverings upon entering.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a face covering can include reusable bandannas, scarves, repurposed clothing, cloth masks, or single-use multi-folded paper towels firmly secured to the face with ties or rubber bands.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that one should thoroughly wash/sanitize hands before putting on a face covering, should avoid touching the front of the face covering at all times, and should wash/sanitize hands before and after removing it. Frequent hand-washing and social-spacing protocols should continue along with the wearing of face coverings indoor shared spaces.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that reusable cloth face coverings are recommended to be washed in soap and hot water on a daily basis or immediately after coming in proximity to a possibly infected individual.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that residents and visitors are encouraged not to purchase N95 or surgical masks, as these are limited resources needed for the healthcare community and first responders.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution is intended to protect the health of all residents, employees, and visitors in the City of Lancaster while in public as well as those they interact with closely in private as one could acquire a COVID-19 infection in the public realm and then pass it on to a housemate and/or vulnerable family member.


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Clerk is hereby instructed to file this Resolution with the Office of the Governor urging him to take actions with the implementation of a statewide face covering mandate.

DONE IN MEETING ASSEMBLED on the 30th day of June, 2020, and to become effective June 30, 2020.

Yeas 7 Nays 0

Requested by:

City Administrator _____


T. Alston DeVenny, Mayor

Approved as to form:


Mitch Norrell, City Attorney


Tracy Rabon, City Clerk