

DECLARATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, On March 13, 2020 Governor Tim Walz declared a statewide emergency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic; and,

WHEREAS, On March 17, 2020 Olmsted County declared a health emergency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic; and,

WHEREAS, the City Administrator, City Attorney and Emergency Management Director find that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed the residents and visitors of the City of Rochester at risk, and has threatened essential City services, which threatens the health, safety and welfare of the residents of and visitors to the City of Rochester; and,

WHEREAS, the City Administrator, City Attorney and Emergency Management Director find that traditional sources of relief are not able to prevent the continuing threat, and that additional resources will be needed from state and federal sources; and,

WHEREAS, first responders are not able to fully utilize social distancing and other safety measures in performance of their duties. The City of Rochester is committed to the health and safety of these and all employees.

WHEREAS, Minn. Stat. §12.29 authorizes the Mayor to declare an existence of a local emergency, invoke necessary portions of the City's Emergency Operations Plans and authorizes aid and services in accordance with mutual aid agreements. That authority is also found in Rochester Code of Ordinances, Section 8-1-5; and,

WHEREAS, Kim Norton is the duly elected Mayor of the City of Rochester and wishes to invoke the authority provided for in Minn. Stat. §12.29, subd. 1, and R.C.O. §8-1-5, to declare a local emergency.

NOW, THEREFORE, MAYOR NORTON DECLARES, REQUESTS AND DIRECTS AS FOLLOWS

1. The situation identified herein to be a local emergency and further executes this Declaration of Local Emergency as authorized by Minn. Stat. §12.29, and R.C.O. §8-1-5, for a period of time not exceeding three days from the effective date unless extended upon consent of the City Council pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 12.29, subd.1.
2. Directs that the City's Emergency Operations Plan initiate under the direction of the City Administrator and Emergency Operations Director pursuant to R.C.O. Chapter 8-1.
3. Directs the City Administrator to implement new employee protocols, strategies, and processes to ensure the safety of all city employees. Additional protocols, strategies and processes may be utilized for first responders given their necessary interactions with the public.

4. Direct the City's Emergency Management Director and other appropriate staff to request and coordinate appropriate aid and resources from Olmsted County, the State of Minnesota, federal government and surrounding jurisdictions, as needed.
5. Declare that all meetings of the City Council, and any other board or commission of the City be held by telephone or other electronic means. Until determined prudent by the City Administrator and City Attorney, no public may attend any such meeting and no more people may be physically present in the meeting location than the number recommended by the CDC for gatherings.
6. Declares that the City of Rochester formally recognizes all State of Minnesota Emergency Executive Orders and the Olmsted County State of Health Emergency. The City of Rochester will abide by said Orders and enforce all the provisions therein.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Declaration of Local Emergency invokes the City of Rochester disaster plan as authorized by Rochester Code of Ordinances, Chapter 8.

Dated at Rochester, Minnesota this 20th day of March, 2020.

Kim Norton, Mayor

City Clerk