



Tuesday, March 17, 2020

Re: Local state of disaster to be declared for the City of Cedar Park, Texas

Dear Governor Abbott,

Per the powers granted to the Mayor of Cedar Park, I have declared a “local state of disaster” for the City of Cedar Park as contemplated by Texas Government Code, Ch. 418 – effective 8a today – certifying that COVID-19 poses an imminent threat of disaster in our city.

The declaration (attached) contains no additional emergency directives or orders, which would be issued later as needed. Rather, the declaration is issued now to trigger immediate access to all the efficiencies, powers, and resources afforded Cedar Park by Texas law for an emergency pandemic.

Respectfully,

Corbin Van Arsdale
Mayor of Cedar Park, Texas

To: Governor Greg Abbott – PO Box 12428, Austin, TX, 78711

cc: Williamson County Judge Bill Gravell
Travis County Judge Sarah Eckhardt
Williamson County Commissioner Cynthia Long
Travis County Commissioner Gerald Daugherty
Senator Charles Schwertner
Senator Kirk Watson
Representative John Bucy, III
Representative Vicki Goodwin
Cedar Park City Manager Brenda Eivens
Robbie Barrera, Texas Dept. of Emergency Management
Round Rock Mayor Craig Morgan
Leander Mayor Troy Hill
Austin Mayor Steve Adler

DECLARATION OF LOCAL STATE OF DISASTER
CITY OF CEDAR PARK, TEXAS

WHEREAS, in December 2019, a novel coronavirus, now designated COVID-19, was detected in Wuhan, China; and

WHEREAS, symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, cough, 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 (“WHO”) Director General declared the outbreak of COVID-19 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 Thursday, March 5, 2020, the WHO Director General urged aggressive preparedness and activation of emergency plans to aggressively change the trajectory of this epidemic; and

WHEREAS, on Friday, March 6, 2020, the Travis County Judge issued a Declaration of Disaster due to Public Health Emergency and issued an Order prohibiting public and private community gatherings of two thousand five hundred (2,500) or more persons; and

WHEREAS, on Friday, March 6, 2020, the adjacent City of Austin’s Mayor issued a Declaration of Disaster due to Public Health Emergency and issued an Order canceling the annual South by Southwest (SXSW) Conference & Festival; and

WHEREAS, on Tuesday, March 10, 2020, the Travis County Commissioners Court extended the Declaration of Disaster due to Public Health Emergency indefinitely; and

WHEREAS, on Wednesday, March 11, 2020, the WHO declared COVID-19 a worldwide pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on Thursday, March 12, 2020, the Governor of the State of Texas declared a state of disaster in Texas due to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on Friday, March 13, 2020, the President of the United States issued a Proclamation declaring a National Emergency Concerning the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Outbreak; and

WHEREAS, on Saturday, March 14, 2020, the Williamson County Judge issued an Order Declaring a Local State of Disaster for Williamson County, Texas; and

WHEREAS, on Saturday, March 14, 2020, the Travis County Judge issued an Order prohibiting public and private community gatherings of two hundred fifty (250) or more persons; and

WHEREAS, on Sunday, March 15, 2020, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) recommended canceling all events of 50 or more people; and

WHEREAS, on Monday, March 16, 2020, the Williamson County Judge issued an Order banning large events and mass gatherings of fifty (50) or more persons, with significant exceptions; and

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WHEREAS, on Monday, March 16, 2020, the Governor of the State of Texas said at a San Antonio press conference, "You're going to see an exponential increase in the number of people who test positive on a daily basis. People just need to prepare, and not be shocked, for the mathematical reality."

WHEREAS, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") is closely monitoring the growing number of COVID-19 cases that have spread into the United States, including at least 3,774 confirmed cases (57 in Texas) and 69 deaths; and

WHEREAS, the continued worldwide spread of COVID-19 presents an imminent threat of widespread illness, which requires emergency action; and

WHEREAS, Article 5.07 Emergency and Disaster Management of the City of Cedar Park Code of Ordinances provides that the Mayor shall hold the office of emergency management director of the City; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor, as emergency management director, may declare a local state of disaster and issue all necessary proclamations, regulations, or directives which are necessary for carrying out the purposes of the City's emergency management plan; and

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

WHEREAS, the City of Cedar Park will work collaboratively with Williamson and Travis Counties to ensure that all appropriate and necessary measures are taken to prevent and limit the development, contraction, and spread of COVID-19.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF CEDAR PARK, TEXAS:

1. That a local state of disaster is declared for the City of Cedar Park, Texas pursuant to Texas Government Code §418.108(a) due to a public health emergency.
2. That this declaration of local state of disaster activates the appropriate recovery, rehabilitation, and aid provisions of the City of Cedar Park's Emergency Management Plan, pursuant to Texas Government Code §418.108(d), as well as all emergency powers and authorities of the Mayor and City Council of the City of Cedar Park pursuant to the City's Charter and Code of Ordinances, and state and federal laws and regulations.
3. That pursuant to Texas Health and Safety Code §122.006, the City of Cedar Park is authorized to adopt rules to protect the health of persons in the City, including quarantine rules to protect its residents against communicable disease and provide for establishment of quarantine stations, emergency hospitals and other hospitals.
4. That the local state of disaster shall continue for a period of seven (7) days from the effective date, unless revoked prior to that time or otherwise continued in effect by consent of the City Council of the City of Cedar Park.

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CITY OF CEDAR PARK, TEXAS

5. That this declaration of local state of disaster shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the City Secretary.
6. That this declaration shall take effect at 8 am on the 17th day of March, 2020.

ORDERED this 17th day of March, 2020.

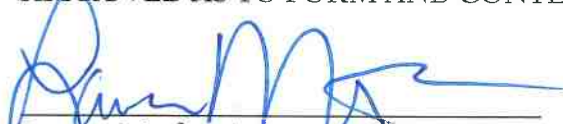
CITY OF CEDAR PARK, TEXAS


Corbin Van Arsdale, Mayor

ATTEST:


Dyanne Hargrove, Legal Assistant

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND CONTENT:


Lauren Marfin, Assistant City Attorney

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