

FILED

APR 30 2020

10:05 AM

Brenda Fietsam KS

BRENDA FIETSAM

CO. CLERK, FAYETTE CO., TEXAS

STATE OF TEXAS §
 §
COUNTY OF FAYETTE §

**DECLARATION OF LOCAL DISASTER RELATED TO CORONAVIRUS DISEASE
(COVID-19)**

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the United States Federal Government has declared a national emergency and the State of Texas has declared a statewide public health disaster as a result of the COVID-19 Coronavirus; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, The Fayette County Judge issued and signed a Declaration of Local Disaster for Fayette County, Texas; and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, the Center for Disease Control and United States Office of the White House, issued recommended guidelines regarding preventative procedures for the spread of COVID-19 titled, “15 Days to Slow the Spread”; and

WHEREAS, on March 19th, 2020, Fayette County Commissioners Court extended the Declaration of Disaster an additional seven days; and

WHEREAS, during the week of March 22, 2020, many Texas counties, including Harris County, Travis County, Bexar County, Dallas County and Tarrant County, issued shelter-in-place orders in response to the growing threat of the COVID-19 virus spread; and

WHEREAS, on March 25, 2020, United States President, Donald Trump, issued a Major Disaster Declaration designating the State of Texas the site of a major disaster due to the COVID-19 virus; and

WHEREAS, on March 26, 2020, Fayette County extended this disaster declaration for an additional two weeks as a result of the increasing threat of COVID-19 spread; and

WHEREAS, on March 31, 2020, Texas Governor Greg Abbot issued an extension to Executive Order GA-14, a state wide “stay home, stay safe” order, excepting only essential business practices in the State of Texas; and

WHEREAS, on April 9, Fayette County extended the declaration of disaster and included additional restrictions therein requiring all hospitality companies to cease providing overnight stay services to non-essential employees within Fayette County limits; and

WHEREAS, on April 27, Governor Abbott issued the Governor's Report and Order to open Texas, providing a detailed plan on reopening businesses and organization within Texas; and

WHEREAS, according to the Center for Disease Control, the COVID-19 virus spreads between people who are in close contact, and large gatherings of people pose an increased risk of spreading the infectious disease; and

WHEREAS, the potential spread of the COVID-19 Coronavirus poses an imminent threat to the health and safety of the citizens of Fayette County; and

WHEREAS, the magnitude of the potential damage and the rapidity with which potential spread of the COVID-19 Coronavirus could constitute an imminent threat of disaster and a risk to overwhelming local healthcare resources; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Government Code Chapter 418 gives the county judge the power to declare a local disaster within the county "if the threat of disaster is imminent"; and

WHEREAS, the declaration of such a disaster authorizes the imposition of controls on activities which tend to increase the likelihood of injury to the public; and

WHEREAS, other local governments in our immediate area have taken preventative measures, including imposing a limit the size of gatherings, and placing restrictions on local businesses in an effort to further address the threat and spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, such controls, once implemented, have the potential of protecting lives and property by mitigating the threat of a potential spread of the COVID-19 Coronavirus; and

WHEREAS, Fayette County sits between three major COVID-19 “hotspots” of Harris County, Texas, Travis County, Texas, and Bexar County, Texas connected by Interstate-71 and Interstate-10, which pass through Fayette County; and

WHEREAS, Harris, Travis, and Bexar Counties have experienced significant increases in the number of COVID-19 positive individuals in the last 30 days which have caused those counties to implement shelter in place orders;

BE IT THEREFORE PROCLAIMED that I, Joseph Weber, County Judge of Fayette County, along with the members of the Fayette County Commissioners Court, hereby extend the local state of disaster issued by Fayette County, Texas on March 13, 2020, based on the threat of spreading of the COVID-19 Coronavirus in Fayette County, Texas for an additional twenty-two (22) days as allowed by Texas Government Code Section 418.108.

BE IT ALSO PROCLAIMED that this order activates the Fayette County Emergency Management Plan and all other statutory and ordinance powers vested in the County Judge and/or other local officials.

BE IT ALSO PROCLAIMED that pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 418.108(g), the County Judge may control ingress to and egress from a disaster area under the jurisdiction and authority of the County Judge to control the movement of persons and the occupancy of premises within that area.

BE IT ALSO PROCLAIMED that in accordance with the Center for Disease Control and United State White House guidelines, this order prohibits social and planned gatherings of groups of more than 10 people anywhere in Fayette County continuing through the term of this disaster declaration, unless terminated or modified by written order.

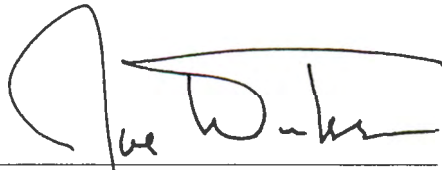
BE IT ALSO PROCLAIMED that the prior declaration of disaster provision, issued April 9, 2020, placing restrictions on all companies providing overnight hospitality services in Fayette County, Texas is hereby withdrawn.

BE IT ALSO PROCLAIMED that this state of disaster will continue until rescinded in accordance with the above cited statute, but in no instance will this declaration continue for more than fourteen days without being authorized by the Fayette County Commissioners Court.

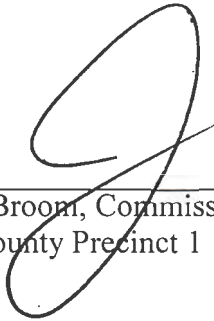
BE IT ALSO PROCLAIMED that peace officers, including but not limited to the Fayette County Sherriff's Office are hereby authorized to enforce this order. A violation of this order may be punishable as a violation of the Fayette County Emergency Management Plan and may be punishable through criminal enforcement. A violation is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed \$1,000.00 and/or confinement in jail for a term not to exceed 180 days.

This declaration shall be promptly publicized and filed with the County Clerk.

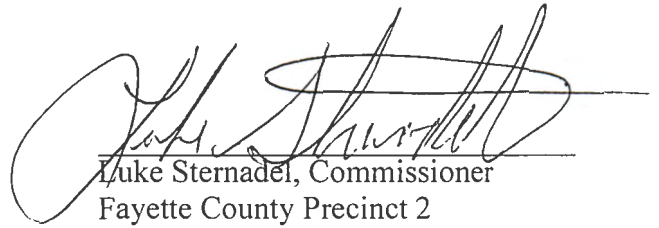
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I affix my signature this 30th day of April, 2020.



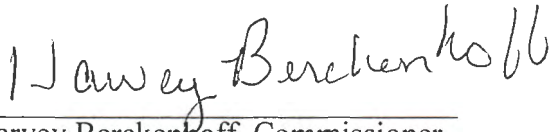
Joe Weber
Fayette County Judge



Jason McBroom, Commissioner
Fayette County Precinct 1



Luke Sternadel, Commissioner
Fayette County Precinct 2

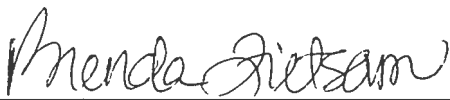


Harvey Berckenhoff, Commissioner
Fayette County Precinct 3

Absent

Tom Muras, Commissioner
Fayette County Precinct 4

ATTEST:



Brenda Fietsam, County Clerk
Fayette County, Texas



Filed with the County Clerk of Fayette County on 30th day of April, 2020.

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CO. CLERK, FAYETTE CO., TEXAS