

Mayor
Mac Hodges

City Manager
Jonathan Russell



Washington City Council

Richard Brooks
Virginia Finnerty
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Office of the Mayor
City of Washington, NC

**PROCLAMATION OF A STATE OF
EMERGENCY**

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of the City of Washington, North Carolina, has duly adopted an ordinance authorizing the Mayor to determine and proclaim the existence of a state of emergency and to impose various restrictions after he determines that such restrictions are necessary as a response to an emergency.

WHEREAS, The North Carolina General Assembly has adopted Article 1A of Chapter 166A of the General Statutes, entitled “North Carolina Emergency Management Act,” which sets forth the authority and responsibility of the Governor, State agencies, and local governments in prevention of, preparation for, response to, and recovery from natural or man-made emergencies; and

WHEREAS, N.C.G.S. § 166A-19.22, which is part of the North Carolina Emergency Management Act, authorizes cities to declare a state of emergency under conditions and following procedures contained in N.C.G.S. § 166A-19.22; and

WHEREAS, the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has created a state of emergency in the City of Washington (“City”); and

WHEREAS, the Governor has declared a state of emergency on behalf of the State of North Carolina on March 10, 2020; and

WHEREAS, historic evidence from the 1918 Pandemic shows that cities that implemented restrictions on public gatherings, and public activities fared better in reducing the transmission of the influenza virus than other cities who were not pro-active;

WHEREAS, scientific evidence and best practices regarding the most effective approaches to slow the transmission of communicable diseases generally and COVID-19 particularly, and evidence that age, condition, and health of a significant portion of the population of the City places the population of the City at risk of serious health complications, including death from COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, many individuals who contract the COVID-19 virus display no symptoms or have mild symptoms which means they may not be aware they carry the virus. People without symptoms can transmit the disease and because evidence shows the disease is easily spread, mass gatherings can result in further transmissions of the virus; and

WHEREAS, it is essential to slow viral transmission as much as possible to protect the most vulnerable and to prevent the health care system from being overwhelmed.

NOW THEREFORE, I, MAC HODGES, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF WASHINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA DO HEREBY PROCLAIM:

SECTION 1. The COVID-19 pandemic poses an imminent threat of, or existing conditions have caused or will cause, widespread or severe illness, or loss of life or business and therefore a State of Emergency exists in the City of Washington, North Carolina, on this the 25th day of March, 2020.

SECTION 2. That an emergency exists and restrictions set forth in this Proclamation are necessary in order to maintain an acceptable level of public order, services, and protection of lives, safety, and property during this emergency, and I hereby order all employees of the City of Washington to implement and comply with the City of Washington Emergency Operations Plan and the provisions of the Emergency Declaration stated herein.

SECTION 3. I hereby order all City of Washington officials and agencies to cooperate in the implementation of the provision of this Proclamation, recommendations from Public Health, and the provisions of the City of Washington Emergency Operations Plan.

SECTION 4. That all individuals living within the City are encouraged to shelter at their places of residence. All persons are encouraged to limit travel for Essential Activities, Essential Governmental Functions, to operate Essential Business, or as otherwise defined in this Proclamation. All Essential Businesses are strongly encouraged to remain open.

Essential Businesses and Operations. For purposes of this Proclamation, Essential Businesses and Operations means Healthcare and Public Health Operations, Human Services Operations, Essential Governmental Functions, and Essential Infrastructure, and the following:

- A. **Stores that Sell Groceries and Medicine.** Grocery stores, pharmacies, certified farmers' markets, farm and produce stands, supermarkets, convenience stores, and other establishments engaged in the retail sale of groceries, canned food, dry goods, frozen foods, fresh fruits and vegetables, pet supplies, fresh meats, fish, and poultry, alcoholic and nonalcoholic beverages and any other household consumer products (such as cleaning and personal care products). This includes stores that sell groceries, medicine, including medication not requiring a medical prescription, and also that sell other non-grocery products, and products necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences and Essential Businesses and Operations;

- B. **Food, Beverage, and Agriculture.** Food and beverage manufacturing, production, processing, and cultivation, including farming, livestock, fishing, baking, and other production agriculture, including cultivation, marketing, production, and distribution of animals and goods for consumption; and businesses that provide food, shelter, and other necessities of life for animals, including animal shelters, rescues, shelters, kennels, and adoption facilities;
- C. **Organizations that Provide Charitable and Social Services.** Businesses and religious and secular nonprofit organizations, including food banks, when providing food, shelter, and social services, and other necessities of life for economically disadvantaged or otherwise needy individuals, individuals who need assistance as a result of this emergency, and people with disabilities;
- D. **Media.** Newspapers, television, radio, and other media services;
- E. **Gas Stations and Businesses Needed for Transportation.** Gas stations and auto-supply, auto-repair, and related facilities and bicycle shops and related facilities;
- F. **Financial Institutions.** Banks, currency exchanges, consumer lenders, including but not limited, to payday lenders, pawnbrokers, consumer installment lenders and sales finance lenders, credit unions, appraisers, title companies, financial markets, trading and futures exchanges, affiliates of financial institutions, entities that issue bonds, related financial institutions, and institutions selling financial products;
- G. **Hardware and Supply Stores.** Hardware stores and businesses that sell electrical, plumbing, and heating material;
- H. **Critical Trades.** Building and Construction Tradesmen and Tradeswomen, and other trades including but not limited to plumbers, electricians, exterminators, cleaning and janitorial staff for commercial and governmental properties, security staff, operating engineers, HVAC, painting, moving and relocation services, and other service providers who provide services that are necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation, and/or essential operation of residences, Essential Activities, and Essential Businesses and Operations;
- I. **Mail, Post, Shipping, Logistics, Delivery, and Pick-up Services.** Post offices and other businesses that provide shipping and delivery services, and businesses that ship or deliver groceries, food, goods, or services to end users or through commercial channels;

- J. **Educational Institutions.** Educational institutions—including public and private pre-K-12 schools, colleges, and universities—for purposes of facilitating distance learning, performing critical research related to COVID-19, or performing essential functions, provided that social distancing of six (6) feet per person is maintained to the greatest extent possible. This Proclamation is consistent with and does not amend or supersede the Governor’s March 10, 2020 Executive Order, except that affected schools are ordered closed through May 15, 2020.
- K. **Laundry Services.** Laundromats, dry cleaners, industrial laundry services, and laundry service providers;
- L. **Restaurants for Consumption Off-premises.** Restaurants and other facilities that prepare and serve food, but only for consumption off-premises, through such means as in-house delivery, third-party delivery, drive-through, curbside pick-up, and carry-out. Schools and other entities that typically provide food services to students or members of the public may continue to do so under this Executive Order on the condition that the food is provided to students or members of the public on a pick-up and takeaway basis only. Schools and other entities that provide food services under this exemption shall not permit the food to be eaten at the site where it is provided, or at any other gathering site due to the COVID-19 virus’s propensity to physically impact surfaces and personal property;
- M. **Supplies to Work from Home.** Businesses that sell, manufacture, or supply products needed for people to work from home;
- N. **Supplies for Essential Businesses and Operations.** Businesses that sell, manufacture, or supply other Essential Businesses and Operations with the support or materials necessary to operate, including computers, audio and video electronics, household appliances; IT and telecommunication equipment; hardware, paint, flat glass; electrical, plumbing and heating material; sanitary equipment; personal hygiene products; food, food additives, ingredients and components; medical and orthopedic equipment; optics and photography equipment; diagnostics, food and beverages, chemicals, soaps and detergent; and firearm and ammunition suppliers and retailers for purposes of safety and security;
- O. **Transportation.** Airlines, taxis, public transportation, transportation network providers (such as Uber and Lyft), vehicle rental services, paratransit, and other private, and commercial transportation and logistics providers necessary for Essential Activities and other purposes expressly authorized herein;
- P. **Home-based Care and Services.** Home-based care for adults, seniors, children, and/or people with developmental disabilities, intellectual disabilities, substance use disorders, and/or mental illness, including caregivers such as nannies who may travel to the child’s home to provide care, and other in-home services including meal delivery;

- Q. **Residential Facilities and Shelters.** Residential facilities and shelters for adults, seniors, children, and/or people with developmental disabilities, intellectual disabilities, substance use disorders, and/or mental illness;
- R. **Professional Services.** Professional services, such as legal services, accounting services, insurance services, real estate services restricted to appraisal, title services, and when necessary to assist in compliance with time sensitive or legally mandated activities;
- S. **Childcare Centers for Specific Employees Exempted by this Proclamation.** Childcare facilities providing services that enable first responders, healthcare workers, public health, HHS staff, and others responding to COVID-19.
- T. **Manufacture, Distribution, and Supply Chain for Critical Products and Industries.** Manufacturing companies, distributors, and supply chain companies producing and supplying essential products and services in and for industries such as pharmaceutical, technology, biotechnology, healthcare, chemicals and sanitization, waste pickup and disposal, agriculture, food and beverage, transportation, energy, steel and steel products, petroleum and fuel, mining, construction, national defense, communications, as well as products used by other Essential Businesses and Operations.
- U. **Hotels and Motels.** Hotels and motels, to the extent used for lodging and/or delivery or carry-out food services.
- V. **Funeral Services.** Funeral, mortuary, cremation, burial, cemetery, and related services.

SECTION 5. I hereby delegate to Jonathan Russell, City Manager, or his designee, the authority granted by the City of Washington Emergency Operations Plan for the purpose of implementing the said Emergency Operations Plan, and to take such further action as may be necessary to promote and secure the safety, health and protection of the populace of the City of Washington, North Carolina.

SECTION 6. I hereby delegate to Stacy Drakeford, Police & Fire Services Director, or his designee, as Emergency Management Coordinator for the City of Washington for the duration of this Proclamation.

SECTION 7. I further declare that the following restrictions and suspensions are in effect during the State of Emergency:

- Employees of the City of Washington are hereby expressly authorized to take the necessary actions for the purpose of carrying out public health orders necessary and appropriate to ensure that COVID-19 remains controlled and that residents and visitors in the City of Washington remain safe and secure, for the purpose of maintaining the public peace, and to ensure sanitary, healthful conditions.

- The regulations promulgated by the North Carolina Department of Labor, OSH division, governing workers' safety are suspended during the State of Emergency as to Emergency Management Workers, including law enforcement, fire, rescue and emergency medical services, of the City of Washington.

SECTION 8. I further direct Jonathan Russell, City Manager, or his designee, to seek assistance from all agencies of the United States Government as may be needed to meet the emergency needs and seek reimbursement for costs incurred by the City in responding to this emergency.

SECTION 9. This proclamation shall become effective immediately and shall remain in effect until rescinded.

This the 25th day of March, 2020.





Mayor