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# CITY OF MIAMI BEACH DECLARATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY

**EXTENDED THROUGH 11:59 P.M. ON MAY 22, 2020**

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**WHEREAS**, coronavirus disease 2019 (“COVID-19”), a severe acute respiratory illness caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus that can spread rapidly from person to person and cause serious illness or death, constitutes a clear and present threat to the lives, health, welfare and safety of the people of the City of Miami Beach; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 9, 2020, Governor Ron DeSantis issued Executive Order 20-52, declaring a State of Emergency for the State of Florida related to COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the rapidly spreading coronavirus outbreak a pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 12, 2020, Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Gimenez declared a State of Emergency for all of Miami-Dade County due to the threats associated with COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 12, 2020, I, as City Manager for the City of Miami Beach, declared a State of Emergency for the City of Miami Beach, as COVID-19 poses a health risk to the City’s residents, particularly elderly residents and those who are immunosuppressed or otherwise have high risk of medical conditions, which declaration was amended on March 13, 2020, and the findings of which are hereby incorporated by reference; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020, the Mayor and City Commission of the City of Miami Beach unanimously adopted Resolution No. 2020-31192, authorizing the City Manager to extend the duration of the Declaration of a State of Emergency and implement discretionary emergency measures for an additional period of seven (7) days, commencing on March 12, 2020, and ending on March 19, 2020, to address the COVID-19 pandemic and protect the public health, safety and welfare of the people of the City of Miami Beach, the findings of which are hereby incorporated by reference; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020, President Trump declared a national emergency due to COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 18, 2020, the Mayor and City Commission unanimously adopted Resolution No. 2020-31219, authorizing the City Manager to extend the duration of the Declaration of a State of Emergency and implement discretionary emergency measures for an additional period of seven (7) days, commencing on March 19, 2020, and ending on March 26, 2020, to address the COVID-19 pandemic and protect the public health, safety and welfare of the people of the City of Miami Beach, the findings of which are hereby incorporated by reference; and

**WHEREAS**, the rate of infection throughout the world and in the United States has accelerated rapidly, with more than 4,407,158 confirmed cases worldwide as of May 13, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, as the result of the rapid and exponential spread of COVID-19, countries such as Spain, Italy, India, Czech Republic, France, Jordan, and the United Kingdom have imposed strict measures limiting travel, and ordering citizens to stay at home to avoid or minimize the community spread of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, as of May 20, 2020, the United States has recorded over 1,573,777 confirmed cases, with more than 93,705 deaths; and

**WHEREAS**, the accelerating infection rate for COVID-19 led 43 states (including Florida), and countless local governments, including Miami-Dade County, Miami, Los Angeles, New York City, Dallas and others to issue orders curtailing mobility and travel, through "Shelter in Place," "Stay at Home," or "Safer at Home" orders, in order to minimize contact through social distancing measures and reduce the risk of COVID-19 infection, with over 316 million Americans subject to such orders, accounting for over 97% of the country's population; and

**WHEREAS**, as of May 20, 2020, the Florida Department of Health lists 47,471 positive cases of COVID-19 and 2,096 deaths, with South Florida emerging as a "hotspot" for these infections – with 6,407 confirmed cases in Broward County and 16,034 confirmed cases in Miami-Dade County, together accounting for nearly half of Florida's confirmed case total; and

**WHEREAS**, both the State of Florida and Miami-Dade County saw their deadliest day on Tuesday, April 14, 2020, when 72 people died statewide and 34 people died in Miami-Dade County; and

**WHEREAS**, as of May 20, 2020, 589 individuals in Miami-Dade County have died due to complications from COVID-19, including a long-time nurse at Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami; and

**WHEREAS**, health experts urge people to practice extreme social distancing in order to "flatten the curve," which refers to the use of protective practices to slow the rate

of COVID-19 infection, so that hospitals have sufficient room, supplies, and medical personnel for all of the patients who may need care due to COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, the failure to “flatten the curve” at the early onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in Italy has filled many hospitals in Italy beyond their capacity, forcing emergency rooms to close their doors to new patients, allocate ventilators and ICU beds to patients with highest chances of survival, hire hundreds of new doctors and healthcare personnel, and request emergency supplies of basic medical equipment, like respirator masks, from abroad; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Anthony S. Fauci, the Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and the United States government’s top infectious disease expert, has warned that COVID-19 could kill between 100,000 to 200,000 Americans, despite social distancing measures already taken across the country; and

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19 continues to impact first responders on a global and national scale – in Italy, 8,358 health workers have tested positive for coronavirus, according to the Italian National Institute of Health, and over 60 doctors who were infected with the coronavirus have died; and

**WHEREAS**, as Spain overtook China on March 30, 2020, in the number of confirmed coronavirus infections, the pandemic stretched Spanish hospitals to their breaking points – at least six of Spain’s 17 regions had reached their limit of ICU beds and three more regions were approaching it, according to Spanish authorities; and

**WHEREAS**, the COVID-19 outbreak has already overwhelmed some United States hospitals in areas with the highest infection rates, leading the U.S. military to prepare to deploy field hospitals in New York and Seattle, send military hospital ships to Los Angeles and New York City, and task the Army Corps of Engineers to convert hotels and dormitories into treatment facilities for sick patients; and

**WHEREAS**, the USNS Comfort, a Navy hospital ship equipped with 1,000 beds and 12 operating rooms, arrived in New York City on March 30, 2020, as the United States Government seeks to ease the strain on area hospitals reeling from the coronavirus pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, the spread of COVID-19 via travel, including business and leisure travel, presents unique challenges to a resort community like Miami Beach, as attracting visitors and tourists is utterly incompatible with social distancing efforts; and

**WHEREAS**, in spite of warnings from City, County, State, and Federal governmental agencies, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (the “CDC”), thousands of students and other persons congregated in Miami Beach for “Spring Break” and other social activities, and congregated in and around parks, beaches, hotels, restaurants, bars, nightclubs, and other places of public assemblage, without observing

the social distancing guidelines recommended by the CDC, thus increasing the risk of transmission; and

**WHEREAS**, as of April 2, 2020, at least four Miami Beach police officers, one of which was assigned to patrol the Ocean Drive area during a peak “Spring Break” period, have contracted COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, there is reason to believe that COVID-19 may be spread amongst the population by various means of exposure, including the propensity to spread person-to-person and the propensity to attach to surfaces for prolonged periods of time, thereby spreading from surface to person and causing property loss and damage in certain circumstances; and

**WHEREAS**, the media has reported that two religious leaders in the Surfside/Bal Harbour area have contracted COVID-19, and accordingly, continued gatherings in places of public assemblage, such as religious institutions, pose a risk to the health, safety and welfare of the people of the City of Miami Beach; and

**WHEREAS**, since Miami-Dade County’s initial declaration of a State of Emergency, Miami-Dade County has issued various Emergency Orders temporarily closing public and private facilities, including the temporary closure of all non-essential retail and commercial establishments within Miami-Dade County (as such term is defined in Miami-Dade County’s Emergency Orders), subject to any further restrictions as may be ordered by municipalities within their jurisdictions; and

**WHEREAS**, in response to the threat posed by COVID-19 to the health, safety and welfare of the City’s residents, since March 12, 2020, I, as City Manager of the City of Miami Beach, have imposed a number of temporary emergency measures to limit the inflow of leisure guests to the City and require the closure of, and limit crowds in, public facilities, public property, and places of public assemblage (including, without limitation, hotels, restaurants, bars, nightclubs, concert halls, entertainment venues, movie theaters, and houses of worship), as well as other restrictions on travel and gatherings of any number of people, including imposition of a general curfew throughout the City, in order to reduce community spread, relieve pressure on hospitals and healthcare personnel, protect workers, and maintain social order; and

**WHEREAS**, other counties and municipalities in Florida, including Miami-Dade County, Monroe County, and Key Biscayne, have issued emergency orders with restrictions on commercial lodging establishments within their jurisdictions; and

**WHEREAS**, many countries have enacted travel restrictions in response to the spread of COVID-19, including the United States, which issued a Level 4 “Do Not Travel” global health advisory, advising U.S. citizens to avoid all international travel due to the global impact of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, in an effort to further implement social distancing practices to curb the spread of COVID-19, on March 23, 2020, I, as City Manager, issued a "Safer at Home" Emergency Order, requiring all persons living in the City to remain in their homes to the maximum extent possible, except to engage in essential activities as set forth in the Order; and

**WHEREAS**, other cities in Miami-Dade County, including Miami, Hialeah, Coral Gables, Surfside, North Bay Village, Golden Beach, Aventura, Bay Harbor Islands, and Doral have also issued similar orders for residents; and

**WHEREAS**, however, domestic air travel remains unrestricted and Florida continues to receive guests and visitors from high risk areas, such as visitors from New York seeking shelter in Florida, potentially further compounding the public health emergency and straining resources for local governments in Florida; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 23, 2020, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis issued Executive Order No. 20-80, requiring visitors entering the State of Florida through airports from New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut to isolate or quarantine for a period of 14 days following their arrival in Florida, in an effort to stop the spread of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, subsequently, on March 27, 2020, Governor DeSantis issued Executive Order 20-86, requiring visitors entering the State of Florida from Louisiana to isolate or quarantine for a period of 14 days following their arrival in Florida; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 27, 2020, Governor DeSantis also issued an executive order suspending operations of all vacation rentals in Florida and prohibiting them from making new reservations or bookings and accepting new guests for check-in for the duration of the order; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 27, 2020, the United States Congress approved the largest economic relief package in U.S. history, allocating \$2 trillion to provide immediate assistance to individual Americans, small businesses, and major industries on the brink of economic collapse amid the ongoing pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 29, 2020, in recognition that extreme social distancing measures are critical to containment of the pandemic, President Trump extended federal social distancing guidelines through April 30, 2020 recommending that all Americans must continue to avoid nonessential travel, going to work, eating at bars and restaurants, or gathering in groups of more than 10; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 30, 2020, Governor DeSantis issued an executive order directing Miami-Dade County, Broward County, Palm Beach County, and Monroe County (which together account for over sixty (60) percent of Florida's identified COVID-19 cases), to restrict public access to businesses and facilities deemed non-essential

pursuant to the guidelines established by Miami-Dade County pursuant to its March 19, 2020 Emergency Order 07-20, as amended; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 31, 2020, Governor DeSantis issued a stay-at-home order for Miami-Dade County, Broward County, Palm Beach County, and Monroe County; and

**WHEREAS**, on April 3, 2020, the CDC announced national guidelines recommending that all persons use non-medical grade masks when engaging in any activities outside the home; and

**WHEREAS**, on April 3, 2020, I, as the City Manager, issued an Emergency Order requiring all employees and customers of grocery stores, pharmacies and restaurant facilities to wear a form of covering over their nose and mouth at all times when inside these establishments, and strongly encouraging the use of such coverings in all other essential retail and commercial businesses; and

**WHEREAS**, in order to create additional capacity in hospitals, the State of Florida has determined that there is an urgent need to construct, rehabilitate and install treatment facilities to house and treat those residents and visitors of the State who are suffering from COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 illnesses; and

**WHEREAS**, on Wednesday, April 8, 2020, City of Miami Beach Mayor Dan Gelber, along with Governor DeSantis, Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Gimenez and Lt. Gen. Todd T. Semonite, Commanding General of the United States Army Corps of Engineers announced an initiative to repurpose the Miami Beach Convention Center as a temporary medical facility for COVID-19 patients, which will initially include up to 450 beds, with capacity for additional beds if necessary; and

**WHEREAS**, on April 16, 2020, I, as the City Manager, issued an Emergency Order, effective April 17, 2020, requiring ALL employees and customers of essential retail and commercial businesses to wear a form of covering over their nose and mouth at all times while inside the businesses; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Sections 26-31 and 26-33 of the City Code and Chapter 252 of the Florida Statutes, I, as City Manager of the City of Miami Beach, am authorized to declare a state of emergency and order and promulgate discretionary emergency measures, with such limitations and conditions as the City Manager may deem appropriate; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to City Code Section 26-35, the duration of such Declaration of a State of Emergency (and any such discretionary emergency measures implemented pursuant thereto) is limited to a period of 72 consecutive hours, unless an extension is authorized by the City Commission by duly enacted resolution in a regular or special session of the City Commission; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 252.38, Florida Statutes, provides that the duration of each State of Emergency declared locally is limited to a period of seven (7) days; however, Section 252.38 also provides that such local State of Emergency may be extended, as necessary, in 7-day increments; and

**WHEREAS**, in Resolution No. 2020-31219, the Mayor and City Commission further authorized the City Manager to continue to extend the Declaration of a State of Emergency in the City of Miami Beach, for four (4) additional 7-day increments, which would commence on March 26, 2020, and end on April 23, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 26, 2020, and pursuant to Resolution No. 2020-31219, I extended the Declaration of a State of Emergency for an additional period of seven (7) days, commencing on March 27, 2020, and ending on April 2, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, on April 2, 2020, and pursuant to Resolution No. 2020-31219, I extended the Declaration of a State of Emergency for an additional period of seven (7) days, commencing on April 3, 2020, and ending on April 9, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, on April 9, 2020, and pursuant to Resolution No. 2020-31219, I extended the Declaration of a State of Emergency for an additional period of seven (7) days, commencing on April 10, 2020, and ending on April 16, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, on April 16, 2020, and pursuant to Resolution No. 2020-31219, I extended the Declaration of a State of Emergency for an additional period of seven (7) days, commencing on April 17, 2020, and ending on April 23, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, on April 22, 2020, the Mayor and City Commission unanimously adopted Resolution No. 2020-31245, authorizing the City Manager to extend the duration of the Declaration of a State of Emergency and implement discretionary emergency measures for an additional period of seven (7) days, commencing on April 24, 2020, and ending on April 30, 2020, to address the COVID-19 pandemic and protect the public health, safety and welfare of the people of the City of Miami Beach, the findings of which are hereby incorporated by reference; and

**WHEREAS**, Resolution No. 2020-31245 further authorized the City Manager to extend the Declaration of a State of Emergency in the City of Miami Beach, on April 30, 2020, for one additional 7-day increment, which would commence on May 1, 2020, and end on May 7, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, on April 23, 2020, and pursuant to Resolution No. 2020-31245, I extended the Declaration of a State of Emergency for an additional period of seven (7) days, commencing on April 24, 2020, and ending on April 30, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, on April 29, 2020, Governor DeSantis issued Emergency Order 20-112, which, in pertinent part, permits certain businesses required to close pursuant to



previous executive orders to reopen (subject to certain restrictions), effective May 4, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, in recognition of widespread transmission of COVID-19 in South Florida, and the need to continue emergency measures in South Florida, Executive Order 20-112 exempts Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach counties from the reopening provisions of the Order, providing that “allowances for services and activities from . . . this order will be considered in consultation with local leadership”; and

**WHEREAS**, on April 30, 2020, and pursuant to Resolution No. 2020-31245, I extended the Declaration of a State of Emergency for an additional period of seven (7) days, commencing on May 1, 2020, and ending on May 7, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, on May 1, 2020, the Mayor and City Commission adopted Resolution No. 2020-31246, authorizing the City Manager to extend the Declaration of a State of Emergency for an additional seven (7) days, commencing on May 8, 2020 and ending on May 14, 2020;

**WHEREAS**, on May 7, 2020, and pursuant to Resolution No. 2020-31246, I extended the Declaration of a State of Emergency for an additional seven (7) days, commencing on May 8, 2020 and ending on May 14, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, on May 13, 2020, the Mayor and City Commission adopted Resolution No. 2020-31273, authorizing the City Manager to extend the Declaration of a State of Emergency for an additional seven (7) days, commencing on May 15, 2020 and ending on May 21, 2020, and further authorizing the City Manager to extend the Declaration of a State of Emergency by one (1) additional day, commencing at 12:00 a.m. on May 22, 2020, and ending at 11:59 p.m. on May 22, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, on May 14, 2020, and pursuant to Resolution No. 2020-31273, I extended the Declaration of a State of Emergency for an additional seven (7) days, commencing on May 15, 2020 and ending on May 21, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, on May 15, 2020, Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Gimenez issued Emergency Order 23-20, effective May 18, 2020, permitting certain retail and commercial establishments and other establishments or facilities in Miami-Dade County to reopen, subject to strict compliance with social distancing guidelines issued by the County (“EO 23-20”); and

**WHEREAS**, the provisions of EO 23-20 serve as minimum standards, and municipalities may impose more stringent standards within their jurisdictions.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, JIMMY L. MORALES**, as City Manager for the City of Miami Beach, Florida, pursuant to the authority vested in me under Section 26-31 of the City of Miami Beach Code of Laws and Ordinances (the “City Code”), have determined



that there is reason to believe that there exists a clear and present danger of a riot or other general public disorder, widespread disobedience of the law, and substantial injury to persons or to property, all of which constitute an imminent threat to public peace or order, and to the general welfare of the City of Miami Beach, based upon the COVID-19 pandemic. I further find that it is necessary to continue to take immediate action to control and reduce threats associated with the COVID-19, to protect the public health, safety and welfare of the people of the City of Miami Beach.

**BASED ON THE FOREGOING, I HEREBY extend the Declaration of a State of Emergency in the City of Miami Beach to address the COVID-19 pandemic, and extend the Emergency Measures ordered and promulgated pursuant to such Declaration (including the "Safer At Home" Emergency Order), as may be further amended, for an additional one (1) day period, commencing at 12:00 a.m. on May 22, 2020, and ending at 11:59 p.m. on May 22, 2020, unless extended by the Miami Beach City Commission by duly enacted Resolution in regular or special session.**

Any violation of these emergency measure(s) shall subject the individual, operator, business entity, or organization to arrest and criminal prosecution pursuant to Section 26-36 and Section 1-14 of the City Code.




CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA

  
Jimmy L. Morales, City Manager

Date: 5/21/2020

Time: 1:30 p.m.

ATTEST:

  
5/21/2020  
Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk



STATE OF FLORIDA  
COUNTY OF MIAMI-DADE

I, RAFAEL E. GRANADO, City Clerk of the City of Miami Beach, Florida, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of the original thereof on file in this office.

WITNESS my hand and seal of said City this  
21 day of MAY, 2020.

  
Rafael E. Granado  
City Clerk of the City of Miami Beach, Florida