

CITY OF JACKSONVILLE BEACH, FLORIDA
EMERGENCY ORDER AND REGULATIONS
COVID-19 STATE OF EMERGENCY - MARCH 23, 2020
(Public Beach Closure - Retroactive to March 20, 2020)

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2020, State of Florida Governor Ron DeSantis issued Executive Order No. 20-52 concerning the coronavirus, COVID-19 pandemic, declaring a state of emergency, authorizing local governments to waive procedures and formalities otherwise required by law pertaining to public works and taking any prudent action necessary to ensure the public health, safety, and welfare; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the City of Jacksonville Beach (“City”), issued a Declaration of a State of Emergency in the City, to activate emergency and precautionary proactive measures against the health dangers and deadly transmission of COVID-19, and to protect the public health, welfare, and safety of citizens and visitors of the City; and

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2020, Gov. DeSantis issued Executive Order No. 20-68 that, in part, directed parties accessing public beaches in the State of Florida to follow Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) guidance by limiting their gathering to no more than 10 persons, distance themselves from other parties by 6 feet, and that supports beach closures at the discretion of local authorities; and

WHEREAS, seeing that most people on the local beaches were not following CDC guidelines or the Governor’s directives, on March 20, 2020, Mayor Lenny Curry ordered effective at 5:00 p.m. Friday, March 20, the closure of all beaches in Duval County to the general public, tourists and residents of all beach communities in the County, 24 hours a day/7 days a week, until further notice; and

WHEREAS, the City fully complied with and enforced Mayor Curry’s beach closure order, it closed the City’s public beach and all public access points to the beach, and the City continues to enforce the order; and

WHEREAS, City Code Sec. 2-194(1) authorizes that during a state of emergency, the procedures and formalities otherwise required of the City by law may be waived by the Mayor and City Manager, and may authorize actions pertaining to performing public work and taking whatever action is necessary to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the community; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Sections 252.47 and 252.50, Florida Statutes, local law enforcement authorities are required to enforce orders and rules issued during an emergency, and any person violating an order or rule so issued, or statutes governing emergency management, commits a misdemeanor of the second degree; and

WHEREAS, the City desires to issue this Emergency Order and Regulations in conformity with Mayor Curry’s March 20 order and directives, and pursuant to the Governor’s Executive Orders No. 20-52 and No. 20-68 and all applicable Florida Laws.

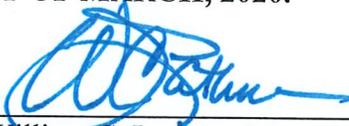
NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM C. LATHAM, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF JACKSONVILLE BEACH, FLORIDA, BY VIRTUE OF THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME BY CITY CODE CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE VII, SECTIONS 2-193 AND 2-194, AND ALL APPLICABLE LAWS AND ORDERS, DO HEREBY DECLARE AND ORDER:

- I. Retroactive to and effective as of 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 20, the City of Jacksonville Beach, Florida, public beach is closed to the general public, tourists and residents of the City, 24 hours a day/7 days a week, until further notice.
- II. Exempted from this Emergency Order are authorized personnel from emergency first responder/rescue and law enforcement agencies, City personnel and Ocean rescue and lifeguards performing in the course and scope of their official position and duties and to carry out the directives of this Emergency Order.
- III. All of the public, tourists, and residents of the City of Jacksonville Beach are directed to comply with this Emergency Order, regulations and measures, and to cooperate with public officials and safety personnel, and to obey and comply with lawful direction of all public officers.
- IV. Authorized law enforcement patrols of the beach and public access points on to the beach will occur daily to ensure compliance with this Emergency Order. These orders and regulations have full force and effect of law. Any person violating any Executive Order or this Emergency Order shall be subject to arrest and criminal prosecution of a misdemeanor of the second degree.

IT IS SO DECLARED AND ORDERED THIS 23RD DAY OF MARCH, 2020.

Attest:


Laurie Scott, City Clerk


William C. Latham, Mayor

Approved as to form and legal sufficiency:

Chris Ambrosio, City Attorney