

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-003

**JOINT RESOLUTION OF
THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF WILKES COUNTY,
CITY OF TIGNALL, AND CITY OF WASHINGTON, GEORGIA
EMERGENCY ORDER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH CONTROL MEASURES**

THIS RESOLUTION is adopted by the Board of Commissioners of Wilkes County, City of Tignall, and City of Washington, Georgia (the “Board and Councils”).

WHEREAS, there currently exists in Wilkes County, Georgia the potential for a local disaster or emergency due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) disease (“COVID-19”), which may affect the lives and property of the citizens of Wilkes County, Georgia; and

WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, (the “CDC”) indicates that COVID-19 is a new and contagious respiratory disease caused by a novel (new) coronavirus that was first detected in China and which has now been detected in more than 140 locations around the world, including in the United States; and

WHEREAS, as reported by the World Health Organization (“WHO”), the world has experienced a deep humanitarian crisis as a result of COVID-19 and the number of confirmed cases and deaths from COVID-19 is escalating rapidly, internationally, nationally, and locally; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is officially a world health emergency and a global pandemic according to the WHO; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, President Donald Trump declared a national emergency for the United States of America in response to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 14, 2020, Governor Brian Kemp declared a public health emergency due to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, as reported by the CDC effective as of March 24, 2020, Georgia now has 1026 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 32 COVID-19 related deaths; and

WHEREAS, the CDC has issued guidance on the emerging and rapidly evolving situation of the COVID-19 pandemic, including how to protect oneself from illness; and

WHEREAS, social distancing is recommended by the CDC to prevent the continued spreading of the illness in the community; and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, President Donald Trump issued his Coronavirus Guidelines for America which instructs people to listen to their local authorities and to avoid social gatherings of more than (10) people; and

WHEREAS, the CDC expects that additional cases of COVID-19 will be identified in the coming days, including more cases in the United States, and that person-to-person spread of COVID-19 is likely to continue to occur; and

WHEREAS, medical professionals have advised that, if COVID-19 spreads in Wilkes County and the rest of Georgia at a rate comparable to the rate of spread in other affected areas, then it may greatly strain the resources and capabilities of municipal governments, including public health agencies, that provide essential services for containing and mitigating the spread of contagious diseases, such as COVID-19, and the situation may become too large in scope to be handled in its entirety by the normal City and County operating services in some parts of this State, and this situation may spread to other parts of the State; and

WHEREAS, based upon the experience of other local governments in Georgia, a growing number of cases are likely to occur; and

WHEREAS, in the judgment of the Board and Councils, there exists emergency circumstances located within its jurisdiction requiring immediate response for the protection of the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the community, the state, and the nation; and

WHEREAS, the Board and Councils pursuant to their governing authority have the power to perform and exercise such functions and duties, and take such emergency actions as may be necessary to promote and secure the safety, protection and well-being of the inhabitants of Wilkes County, Georgia in the event of such an emergency; and

WHEREAS, to prevent or minimize injury to people resulting from this pandemic, the Board and Councils find that certain actions are required, including but not limited to, the social distancing measures set forth herein; and

WHEREAS, on March 23, 2020, Governor Brian Kemp issued an Executive Order, requiring the implementation of certain restrictions to limit the spread of COVID-19.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY DECLARED BY THE BOARD and COUNCILS that a local state of emergency exists within Wilkes County.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED AND RESOLVED BY THE BOARD and COUNCILS as follows:

The following restrictions provided within Governor Brian Kemp's Executive Order are hereby adopted within Wilkes County, Georgia:

1. Certain persons within the State of Georgia and therefore, Wilkes County, who have serious underlying conditions likely to cause and increase the spread of COVID-19 if such person were to become infected are to isolate, quarantine, or shelter in place within their homes or place of residence. This shall include the following:
 - a. Those persons who live in a nursing home or long-term care facility;
 - b. Those persons who have chronic lung disease;
 - c. Those persons who are currently undergoing cancer treatment; and
 - d. Those persons included in Department of Public Health Administrative Order 03.22.20.01.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all businesses which possess a license to operate as or meet the definition of "Bar" as defined in Code Section 3-1-2(2.1) shall cease operations while the Governor's Executive Order is in effect.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that no business, establishment, corporation, non-profit corporation, or organization shall allow more than ten (10) persons to be gathered at a single location if such gathering requires persons to stand or to be seated within six (6) feet of any other person.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board and Councils shall cooperate with, provide assistance to, and support the Department of Public Health to mandate the closure of any business, establishment, corporation, non-profit corporation, or other organization not in compliance with the Governor's Executive Order for a period not to exceed the term of the Governor's Order.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board and Councils recommend that all citizens of Wilkes County follow all relative guidelines and recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Department of Public Health.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board and Councils request voluntary compliance with a curfew for all individuals under the age of 18, except for exempt individuals as defined herein. Curfew hours of 8:00 pm to 8:00 am are recommended for a period not to exceed the term of the Governor's Order and shall apply to all of the territory contained in Wilkes County, Georgia. Exempt individuals include the following individuals: 1) individuals in the presence of and with a natural parent or legal guardian; 2) individuals traveling to and from their places of employment with appropriate identification; 3) individuals traveling to a medical facility; and 4) individuals engaging in their employment.

This Resolution shall become effective upon its adoption. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with the provisions of this Resolution are hereby suspended during the effective dates of this Resolution and the terms and provisions of this Resolution shall prevail.

ADOPTED, this 31st day of March, 2020.