

FOURTH AMENDED DECLARATION OF LOCAL DISASTER DUE TO PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY AND RENEWAL OF SAME

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization has declared the coronavirus, now designated COVID-19, as a global pandemic on March 11, 2020; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 was first detected in Wuhan, China in December 2019; and

WHEREAS, symptoms of COVID-19 can range from mild to severe illness and cause further complications including death; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 virus mainly spreads between people who are in close contact with one another through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes; and

WHEREAS, the continued worldwide spread of COVID-19 presents an imminent threat of widespread illness, which requires emergency action for the protection of the people of Tarrant County; and

WHEREAS, a declaration of local disaster and public health emergency includes the ability to reduce the possibility of exposure to disease, control the risk, promote health, and compel persons to undergo additional health measures that prevent or control the spread of disease. These measures include isolation, surveillance, quarantine, or placement of persons under public health observation, including the provision of temporary housing or emergency shelters for persons misplaced or evacuated. A declaration allows the request of assistance from the Governor for state resources; and

WHEREAS, this Declaration continues the activation of the Tarrant County Emergency Management Plan; and

WHEREAS, the County Judge has determined that extraordinary measures must be taken to mitigate the effects of this public health emergency and to facilitate the efficient, rapid, and cooperative response to the emergency; and

WHEREAS, The County Judge issued a Declaration of Local Disaster due to Public Health Emergency on March 13, 2020 and the County Commissioners issued a Renewal of Declaration of Local Disaster due to Public Health Emergency on March 17, 2020. On March 18, 2020, the County Judge issued a First Amended Declaration of Local Disaster due to Public Health Emergency. The County Judge issued a Second Amended Declaration of Local Disaster due to Public Health Emergency on March 21, 2020 and an Executive Order on March 22, 2020 to implement additional measures to ensure the protection of the residents of Tarrant County. The County Commissioners issued a Renewal of Declaration of Local Disaster due to Public Health Emergency on March 22, 2020 and again on March 24, 2020; and

WHEREAS, The County Judge has issued numerous Executive Orders in response to COVID-19, aimed at protecting the health and safety of Texans and ensuring an effective response to this disaster; and

WHEREAS, On June 2, 2020, the Declaration of Local Disaster initially declared on March 13, 2020, that remained in place continuously since such date, was verbally extended by the County Judge in Commissioners Court until August 31, 2020, unless rescinded by an order of the Commissioners Court.

WHEREAS, On June 2, 2020, the County Commissioners, in open court, approved, continued, and renewed, the extension of the County's Declaration of Local Disaster until August 31, 2020, unless rescinded by an order of the Commissioners Court.

WHEREAS, Tarrant County and its residents continue to be negatively impacted by the continued worldwide spread of COVID-19.

THEREFORE, Be It Proclaimed by the County Judge and County Commissioners that:

1. A state of disaster continues to exist in Tarrant County due to the spread of COVID-19.
2. The Declaration of Local Disaster is hereby extended and shall remain in force and effect through November 30, 2020, unless rescinded by an order of the Commissioners Court.
3. Said extension is hereby approved, continued, and renewed and shall remain in force and effect through November 30, 2020, unless rescinded by an order of the Commissioners Court.
4. The action taken by the Commissioners Court affirms the continuation of the current state of disaster and the Tarrant County Emergency Management Plan.
5. This Fourth Amended Declaration of Local Disaster and Renewal of Same shall be promptly filed with the County Clerk.

ORDERED and RENEWED effective the 25th day of August 2020.

County Judge B. Glen Whitley

Roy C. Brooks
Commissioner, Precinct 1

Gary Fickes
Commissioner, Precinct 3

Devan Allen
Commissioner, Precinct 2

J.D. Johnson
Commissioner, Precinct 4