

RESOLUTION 2020-23

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LAKE WALES, FLORIDA, EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE WEARING OF MASKS OR SIMILAR FACE COVERINGS IN THE CITY OF LAKE WALES WHILE IN PUBLIC AS A PREVENTATIVE MEASURE FOR LIMITING THE SPREAD OF THE CORONAVIRUS KNOWN AS COVID-19; SUGGESTING THAT ALL CITIZENS AND RESIDENTS OF THE CITY COOPERATE IN WEARING MASKS AND ADHERING TO SOCIAL DISTANCING GUIDELINES SUGGESTED BY THE UNITED STATES CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC; PROVIDING THAT THE CITY COMMISSION MAY REVISIT THIS MATTER SHOULD VOLUNTARY ADHERENCE TO THE WEARING OF MASKS BE INSUFFICIENT TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, President Donald J. Trump issued a Proclamation Declaring a National Emergency concerning Coronavirus Disease 2019 ("COVID-19"); and

WHEREAS, on March 1, 2020, Governor Ron Desantis issued Executive Order Number 20-51 declaring a Public Health Emergency in the State of Florida due to the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2020, Governor Ron Desantis issued Executive Order Number 20-52, declaring a State of Emergency for the State of Florida, extending to all sixty-seven (67) counties, which Executive Order Number 20-52 was extended for an additional sixty (60) days on May 8, 2020, by Executive Order Number 20-114; and

WHEREAS, between March 17, 2020, and the date hereof, Governor Ron DeSantis issued several Executive Orders placing numerous restrictions on individuals and businesses, including issuance of Executive Order Number 20-91 (as amended) on April 1, 2020, imposing a state-wide "Safer-At Home" Order, in response to the state-wide threat of the spread of COVID-19 virus; and

WHEREAS, the Polk County Board of County Commissioners declared a local state of emergency for Polk County on March 11, 2020, and has extended its State of Emergency since initially declared; and

WHEREAS, the City of Lake Wales, by action of its Mayor, initially declared a State of Emergency on March 13, 2020, and the City Commission has extended the City's State of Emergency since initially declared; and

WHEREAS, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") has expressly found that: "COVID-19 spreads mainly from person to person through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly

be inhaled into the lungs. Studies and evidence on infection control report that these droplets usually travel around 6 feet (about two arms lengths); and

WHEREAS, the CDC therefore specifically recommends that as businesses and communities reopen, and people resume their daily activities, people should wear face coverings to slow the spread of COVID-19, particularly "in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain"; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission has determined it is appropriate to support the wearing of masks or similar face coverings in public as recommended by the CDC in addition to its recommendations of social distancing for purposes of limiting the spread of COVID-19 among the citizens and residents of the City.

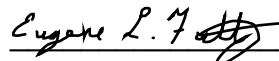
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Commission of the City of Lake Wales that it expressly supports the wearing of masks or similar face coverings in the City of Lake Wales while in public as a preventative measure for limiting the spread of the coronavirus known as COVID-19 and suggests that all citizens and residents of the City cooperate in wearing masks as suggested by the CDC during the existence of the COVID-19 pandemic.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the City Commission of the City of Lake Wales for the protection of the health, safety and welfare of the public that all persons within any indoor location are strongly encouraged to follow appropriate social distancing and safety protocols issued by the CDC.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the City Commission of the City of Lake Wales that the members of the Commission will remain informed as to compliance by the public with this Resolution, and, should voluntary compliance prove to be insufficient for the protection of the public, the City Commission will revisit the matter and consider making the wearing of masks mandatory rather than voluntary.

THIS RESOLUTION shall take effect upon its adoption.

APPROVED and ADOPTED by the City Commission of the City of Lake Wales, Polk County, Florida, this 7th day of July, 2020.



Eugene Fultz, Mayor

Attest:

Jennifer Nanek, City Clerk