

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA            )  
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COUNTY OF GEORGETOWN            )            **EMERGENCY ORDINANCE 20-14**  
  )            **(COVID-19, State of Emergency)**

**AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE TO DECLARE A LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY IN GEORGETOWN COUNTY THEREBY AUTHORIZING THE ACTIVATION OF THE GEORGETOWN COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN AND PROCEDURES**

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19, a novel, highly contagious and deadly virus, has been declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization and now poses a significant threat to County citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a national state of emergency thereby authorizing emergency federal funding and requesting local emergency action plans be activated; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020, the Governor of South Carolina declared a state of emergency for South Carolina ordering the State’s emergency operation plan be activated and requesting the Legislature appropriate funding to combat the effects of the pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 15, 2020, in an effort to curb the spread of COVID-19, the Governor of South Carolina ordered all public schools in South Carolina to close until March 31, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 15, 2020, the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control has reported 28 cases of COVID-19 in South Carolina, including 2 cases in Horry County, a border neighbor with Georgetown County; and

**WHEREAS**, the World Health Organization currently reports over 174,000 COVID-19 cases globally, of which 6,600 have resulted in death; and

**WHEREAS**, Georgetown County Council, in an effort to protect and preserve the general welfare of its citizenry, believes an emergency exists due to this world health event requiring the Council to take all necessary actions to ensure the safety, welfare, and health of its residents and visitors; and

**WHEREAS**, to further the Council’s goal of precautionary measures in order to protect its citizens, Georgetown County Council deems a State of Emergency exists and any such measures are to be taken in an effort to minimize the effects of COVID-19, be it health, welfare, public safety, and/or economic effects; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to SC Code of Laws 4-9-130 and Section 2-487 of the Georgetown County Code of Ordinances, Georgetown County Council hereby declares a local State of Emergency and adopts the following emergency ordinance in order to protect life, health, welfare, safety, and property of the people during the COVID-19 pandemic.

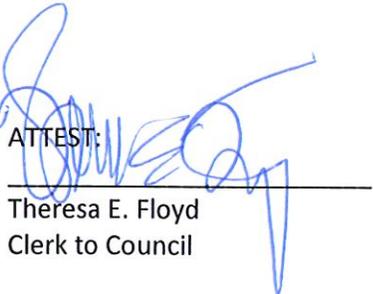
**NOW, THEREFORE**, Georgetown County Council, by a minimum 2/3<sup>rd</sup> majority vote and the power granted to it by the South Carolina Constitution and General Assembly through Home Rule, hereby declares, enacts, ordains, and orders the following:

1. **DECLARATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY.** By the power granted in SC Code of Laws 4-9-130 and Section 2-487 of the Georgetown County Code of Ordinances, Georgetown County Council hereby declares a local STATE OF EMERGENCY effective 5:00pm March 16, 2020.
2. That the Georgetown County Emergency Operation Plan and internal Continuity of Operation Plan be activated and enforced.
3. That all protection measures available to Georgetown County for health and safety response be utilized and made available in order to preserve life and property.
4. That the County work closely with Federal, State, Local, School District and Utility officials to ensure a concerted effort of response during the state of emergency.
5. That the Administrator continuously dialogue with local elected officials to establish reasonable and amenable plans of action for their statutory functions and service.
6. That the Administrator modify personnel policies during the term of the emergency to ensure essential public services are met but also limiting unnecessary county sponsored travel, protecting personnel by utilizing liberal leave for quarantine and isolation, modifying sick time policies for those individuals who are immune suppressed, infected, otherwise need isolation for suspected infection, or have no other means to care for their K-12 children who are subject to State ordered public school closings, and authorizing remote access to the workplace by employees if the assigned duties allow.
7. That the Administrator temporarily suspend or alter board, commission, committee, or other similar meetings or authorize remote attendance electronically, temporarily alter open hours or close certain County facilities, temporarily suspend all adult and youth parks and recreation activities including the organized use of County recreation facilities that host team competitions, and other temporary measures that prohibit the unnecessary congregation of people.
8. Designate the use of emergency procurement and the fund balance, if necessary, and authorize the Administrator to allocate funding to emergency expenditures attributable to the departments necessary during the state of emergency. Any emergency allocation will not require an ordinance during the state of emergency and will be reflected in subsequent budget amendments; the Finance Director will report periodically on monies spent during the state of emergency.
9. This ordinance will remain in effect for sixty (60) days unless sooner terminated by Georgetown County Council.
10. If any section of this ordinance is declared invalid by a court or found to be in conflict with sound legal principle or law, then the remaining portions of the ordinance will remain in effect.
11. This ordinance expressly takes precedence over and supersedes any other Georgetown County ordinance for the duration of the term provided herein.
12. **EFFECTIVE 5:00PM MARCH 16, 2020.**

**ORDAINED, ENACTED, AND ORDERED THIS 16<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF MARCH 2020.**

  
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John Thomas, Chairman  
Georgetown County Council

ATTEST:

  
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Theresa E. Floyd  
Clerk to Council

