

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
)
COUNTY OF GEORGETOWN) **EMERGENCY ORDINANCE 20-20**
) **(COVID-19, Public Beach Access)**

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE TO CLOSE PUBLIC BEACH ACCESSES IN THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF GEORGETOWN COUNTY AND TO CLOSE PUBLIC PIER WALKWAYS; TO PROVIDE AUTHORITY TO THE ADMINISTRATOR TO ENACT THESE MEASURES

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 visitors; 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 16, 2020 Georgetown County Council, via Emergency Ordinance 20-14, declared a State of Emergency in Georgetown County; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of South Carolina issued Order 2020-16 on March 30, 2020 (as extended by Order 2020-23) closing all public beach accesses in South Carolina to combat the unnecessary spread of COVID-19 by preventing the unnecessary congregation of people on the State’s beaches and thereby minimizing the potential strain on the State’s healthcare providers; and

WHEREAS, on April 20, 2020, the Governor of South Carolina issued Order 2020-28, effective 12:00PM Tuesday, April 21, 2020, to rescind the closure of public beach accesses and also provide that the local political subdivision having jurisdiction over a public beach access may authorize the continued closure of said access if it is determined such action is necessary to preserve or protect public health; and

WHEREAS, Georgetown County Council, based on its interpretation of research and reporting involving the COVID-19 pandemic within the United States and South Carolina, believes a continued effort to protect and preserve the general welfare of its citizenry and visitors is warranted and the continued closures of public beach accesses in the unincorporated portions of Georgetown County, Murrells Inlet Marshwalk, Jetty View Walkway, and Veterans Pier, are necessary; and

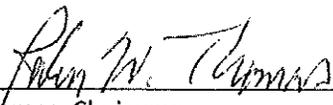
WHEREAS, Georgetown County Council deems any such measures to be taken in an effort to close public beach accesses and public pier walkways are necessary and further granting the authority to the County Administrator to maintain the public beach access and public pier walkway closures is prudent; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to SC Code of Laws 4-9-130 and Sections 2-487, 2-320, and 2-326 of the Georgetown County Code of Ordinances, Georgetown County Council hereby declares that public beach access in the unincorporated portions of Georgetown County and public pier walkways are closed.

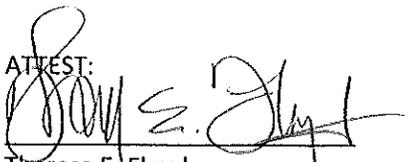
NOW, THEREFORE, Georgetown County Council, by a minimum 2/3rd majority vote and the power granted to it by the South Carolina Constitution and General Assembly through Home Rule, hereby declares, enacts, ordains, and orders the following:

1. Pursuant to the Georgetown County STATE OF EMERGENCY DECLARATION (Emergency Ordinance 20-14), Georgetown County Council hereby directs the closure all Public Beach Accesses in the unincorporated portions of Georgetown County, including adjacent parking lots, and to continue the closure of the Murrells Inlet Marshwalk, Veterans Pier, and Jetty View Walkway.
2. That the Georgetown County Administrator be vested with the authority to utilize any means necessary to enact the authorizations of this emergency ordinance.
3. That the term of closure for public beach accesses in Georgetown County run contemporaneous with the term of the Georgetown County State of Emergency (Emergency Ordinance 20-14), which terminates May 15, 2020, unless rescinded sooner by Georgetown County Council.
4. That the Sheriff of Georgetown County is authorized to enforce this ordinance under Section 2-487 and 2-326 of the Georgetown County Code of Ordinances thereby making it a misdemeanor to use, occupy, or traverse any public beach access, adjacent public beach access parking lot, or public pier walkway and/or to remove or destroy any barricade, by whatever means constructed or placed, on or at any public beach access and adjacent parking lot throughout the unincorporated portions of Georgetown County and/or any public pier walkway during the term of this Ordinance.
5. 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.
6. This ordinance expressly takes precedence over and supersedes any other Georgetown County ordinance for the duration of the term provided herein.
7. **EFFECTIVE 12:00PM APRIL 21, 2020.**

ORDAINED, ENACTED, AND ORDERED THIS 21ST DAY OF APRIL 2020.



John Thomas, Chairman
Georgetown County Council

ATTEST:


Theresa E. Floyd
Clerk to Council