

**ORDER NO. 2020-1**

**ORDER OF THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF RIO GRANDE CITY TEMPORARILY PROHIBITING COMMUNITY GATHERINGS OF NO MORE THAN 10 PERSONS; FINDING THAT THE MEETING AT WHICH THIS RESOLUTION IS PASSED IS HELD IN ACCORDANCE WITH STATE LAW.**

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19 (coronavirus) is a contagious respiratory virus that can spread from person to person, especially in group settings; and

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19 has been declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States Federal Government declared a national emergency on March 13, 2020 due to COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, Governor Abbot declared a State of Disaster in Texas on March 13, 2020, due to COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, March 19, 2020, Governor Abbot issued additional declarations to supplement the March 13, 2020 State of Disaster Declaration; and

**WHEREAS**, Mayor Villarreal declared a local disaster on March 17, 2020, due to COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, it is necessary to take additional steps to prepare for, respond to and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 to protect public health and welfare; and

**WHEREAS**, the Centers on Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") recommends an "all of Community" approach focused on slowing transmission of COVID-19 through social distancing to reduce illness and death, while minimizing social and economic impacts; and

**WHEREAS**, due to the substantial risks to the public, this Order prohibits Community Gatherings of no more than 10 persons anywhere in the City of Rio Grande City beginning at 5:00 PM on March 20, 2020, and continuing until March 27, 2020 or other date as determined by the City Commission, unless terminated or modified by an earlier Order;

**WHEREAS**, due to the substantial risks to the public, this Order prohibits dining-in bars and restaurants, and private clubs; and

**WHEREAS**, due to the substantial risks to the public, this Order prohibits operations of theaters, and gyms; and

**WHEREAS**, due to the substantial risks to the public, this Order limits visits to nursing and retirement homes unless providing critical assistance.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF CITY OF RIO GRANDE CITY, PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY VESTED BY TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE CHAPTER 418, HEREBY FIND AND ORDER:**

Section 1. That the findings and recitations set out in the preamble to this Order are found to be true and correct and they are hereby adopted by the Mayor and made a part hereof for all purposes.

Section 2. Effective as of 5:00 PM on Friday, March 20, 2020, and continuing until March 27, 2020 or other date as determined by the City Commission unless terminated or modified by an earlier Order, the Mayor of Rio Grande City, Texas deems it in the public interest to **PROHIBIT** any public or private Community Gatherings (as defined in Section 3, below) anywhere in the City of Rio Grande City.

Section 3. Definitions:

a. For purposes of this Order, a "Community Gathering" is any indoor or outdoor event or convening, subject to the exceptions and clarifications below, that brings together or is likely to bring together ten (10) or more persons at the same time in a single room or other single confined or enclosed space, such as an auditorium, theater, stadium (indoor or outdoor), arena or event center, meeting hall, conference center, convention center, large cafeteria, restaurant, or nightclub/bar, or any other confined indoor or outdoor space. For clarity, this includes, but is not limited to, weddings, parties, funerals, sporting events, social events, conferences, and other large gatherings.

b. An outdoor "Community Gathering" under this Order is limited to events in confined outdoor spaces, which means an outdoor space that (i) is enclosed by a fence, physical barriers, or other structure and (ii) where people are present and they are within arm's length of one another for extended periods.

c. This Order does not prohibit gatherings of people in multiple, separate enclosed spaces in a single building such as a school classrooms, or different floors of a multi-level building, so long as no more than 10 people are present in any single space at the same time. This Order does not prohibit the use of enclosed spaces where 10 or more people may be present at different times during the day, so long as no more than 10 people are present in the space at the same time. For any gathering covered by this subsection, compliance with social distancing recommendations, including providing hand sanitizer and tissues and increasing the cleaning of commonly and frequently touched surfaces, is strongly encouraged.

d. For purposes of clarity, a "Community Gathering" does not include spaces where 10 or more persons may be in transit on buses, trains or airplanes; or waiting for transit, such as airports, bus stops or terminals. In addition, "Community Gathering" does not include the following spaces where 10 or more persons may congregate, so long as visitors are generally not within arm's length of one another for extended periods:

i. Office space, residential buildings or other business so long as the persons in these spaces comply with section a hereinabove;

ii. Grocery stores, shopping malls, or other retail establishments where large numbers of people may be present, but it is unusual for them to be within arm's length of one another for extended periods; and

iii. Hospitals and medical offices and facilities.

Section 4. Effective as of 5:00 PM on Friday, March 20, 2020, and continuing until March 27, 2020 or other date as determined by the City Commission unless terminated or modified by an earlier Order, the Mayor of Rio Grande City, Texas hereby **ORDERS** that restaurants, bars, and private clubs only provide take out, delivery, or drive-through services allowed by law.

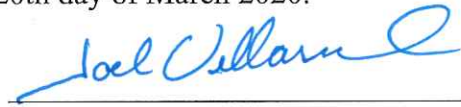
Section 5. Effective as of 5:00 PM on Friday, March 20, 2020, and continuing until March 27, 2020 or other date as determined by the City Commission unless terminated or modified by an earlier Order, the Mayor of Rio Grande City, Texas hereby **ORDERS** the closure of all gyms and theaters.

Section 6. As authorized by Chapter 418 of the Texas Government Code, it is **ORDERED** that peace officers, City of Rio Grande City Code Compliance Officers, and the Rio Grande City Fire Marshal are hereby authorized to enforce this order. A violation of this Order is a Class C Misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed \$500 or as authorized by Texas Government Code Chapter 418 and adopted in the country's emergency plan by a fine not to exceed \$1,000.00 or confinement in jail for a term not to exceed 180 days, whichever is greater.

Section 7. The City of Rio Grande City shall post this Order on its website. In addition, the owner, manager or operator of any facility that is likely to be impacted by this Order is strongly encouraged to post a copy of this Order onsite and to provide a copy to any member of the public asking for a copy.

Section 8. If any subsection, sentence, clause, phrase or word of this Order or application of it to any person, structure, gathering or circumstance is held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a decision of a court of competent jurisdiction, then such decision will not affect the validity of the rest of the order.

ORDERED AND MADE EFFECTIVE on this the 20th day of March 2020.



**JOEL VILLARREAL, MAYOR**

Attest:



Melissa Garza, Interim City Secretary

Approved as to Form:



Calixtro Villarreal, City Attorney