

THE CITY OF RATHDRUM, IDAHO

LOCAL DISASTER EMERGENCY PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, COVID-19, is a respiratory disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which is a new strain of coronavirus that had not been previously identified in humans and can easily spread from person to person, which can result in serious illness or death thereby threatening widespread and/or severe damage to life or property thereby creating an “emergency” as defined by Idaho Code § 46-1002; and

WHEREAS, The CDC identifies the potential public health threat posed by COVID-19 both globally and in the United State as “high”, and has advised that person-to-person spread of COVID-19 will continue to occur globally, including within the United States; and

WHEREAS, On January 30, 2020, the International Health Regulations Emergency Committee of the World Health Organization declared the outbreak a “public health emergency of international concern”; and

WHEREAS, On January 31, 2020, Health and Human Services Secretary Alex M. Azar II declared a public health emergency for the United States to aid the nation’s healthcare community in responding to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, On February 29, 2020, Washington Governor Jay Inslee proclaimed a State of Emergency exists in all counties in the State of Washington; and

WHEREAS, On March 11, 2020, The World Health Organization (WHO) made the assessment that COVID-19 is a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, On March 12, 2020 Panhandle Health District issued recommendations for mass gatherings and public events in order to contain and slow the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, On March 12, 2020 Coeur d’Alene School District # 271 followed the recommendations of Panhandle Health District by cancelling certain mass gatherings and public events and suspending use of school facilities by others; and

WHEREAS, On March 13, 2020, Idaho Governor Brad Little declared a state of emergency in Idaho to address the COVID-19 outbreak; and

WHEREAS, On March 13, 2020, the President of the United States issued an emergency declaration for the country in response to the increasing number of COVID-19 cases within the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, On March 16, 2020, the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare issued updated recommendations for mass gatherings consisting of 50 people or more and public events in order to contain and slow the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, A local disaster emergency may be declared by the Mayor within a political subdivision, pursuant to Idaho Code § 46-1011 and other relevant sections of Idaho Code; and

WHEREAS, In accordance with Idaho Code, the effect of such declaration is to activate the recovery aspects of any and all applicable local or intergovernmental disaster emergency plans and to authorize the furnishing of aid and assistance thereunder; and

WHEREAS, The City may pass all ordinances and make all regulations necessary to preserve the public health; prevent the introduction of contagious diseases into the city; make quarantine laws for that purpose and enforce the same within five (5) miles of the City, pursuant to Idaho Code §50-304;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Vic Holmes, Mayor of the City of Rathdrum, Idaho, do hereby proclaim and declare a local disaster emergency in the City of Rathdrum, Kootenai County, Idaho. All city departments are directed to utilize city resources as follows:

1. To do everything reasonably possible to assist affected individuals and entities in an effort to respond to and recover from the outbreak.
2. To follow the recommendation of the Panhandle Health District by canceling all City sponsored events meeting the following criteria:
 - a. The event will draw audiences or participants from communities, states, or countries with confirmed community spread of COVID-19 disease.
 - b. The event will be held indoors and bring together more than 50 individuals where social distancing of 6 feet or more is unlikely or not possible.
 - c. The event's primary audience includes or may expose high-risk populations, including adults over the age of 60 years and people with underlying chronic medical conditions like heart or lung disease or diabetes, regardless of the number of attendees.
3. To identify and suspend rules, policies, and fees necessary to encourage city residents to conduct business with the city or to comment on matters of public concern without the need of coming to City Hall or attending public meetings and hearings in person.
4. To postpone or cancel Parks and Recreation Department activities. All activities that have been postponed or cancelled will be re-evaluated as time passes. Any activities

that have been cancelled will be issued a full refund, if applicable. The City will not be taking park reservations and all park bathrooms are currently closed.

5. To take all other reasonably necessary steps to slow the spread of COVID-19.

This declaration shall remain in effect for a period of seven (7) days, unless extended pursuant to authorization of the Rathdrum City Council in accordance with Idaho Code § 46-1011(1).

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand on this ____ day of March, 2020.

Vic Holmes, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sherri Halligan, City Clerk