DECLARATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY FOR THE CITY OF FORSYTH

WHEREAS, in December 2019 a novel corona virus, COVID-19, was detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China. Symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, cough, and shortness of breath. Outcomes have ranged from mild to severe illness, and in some cases death; and

WHEREAS, on January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization Director General declared the outbreak of COVID-19 as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC), advising countries to prepare for the containment, detection, isolation and case management, contact tracing and prevention of onward spread of the disease; and

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services declared a public health emergency under section 319 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d) in response to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the identification of "community spread" cases of COVID-19 in the United States signaled that transmission of the virus is no longer limited to travel to affected geographic areas with widespread or sustained community transmission including China, Iran, Italy, Japan, and South Korea, or contact with travelers who had visited affected geographic regions; and

WHEREAS, on February 28, 2020, the World Health Organization officials upgraded its global risk assessment of the novel coronavirus' potential for spread and impact from "high" to "very high; “and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a national emergency pursuant to section 501(b) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 68, sections 5121-5207), known as the "Stafford Act," which provides legal authority for the Federal Emergency Management Agency to provide assistance to states during declared major disasters and emergencies; and

WHEREAS, on March 14, 2020, due to the impact of COVID-19 on the State of Georgia, Governor Kemp issued Executive Order 03.14.20.01, declaring a Public Health State of Emergency in Georgia; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has identified the potential public health threat posed by COVID-19 both globally and in the United States, and has advised that the person-to-person spread of COVID-19 will continue to occur globally, including within the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has noted that COVID-19 is proliferating via “community spread,” meaning people have contracted the virus in areas of Georgia as a result of direct contact or indirect contact with infected persons, including some who are not sure how or where they became infected; and
WHEREAS, as of March 20, 2020 there is a confirmed case of COVID-19, that has been identified within Monroe County, the threat to the health, safety and welfare of citizens does exist; and

WHEREAS, there currently exists in Forsyth, Georgia the potential for a local disaster or emergency due to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, there is a necessity for a prompt and efficient response to safeguard lives and continue the provisions of services during the local emergency; and

WHEREAS, in the judgment of the Mayor of the City of Forsyth, Georgia, with advice from the Monroe County Emergency Management Agency, there exist emergency circumstances as a result of COVID-19 within all of Monroe County, Georgia requiring extraordinary and immediate corrective actions for the protection of the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the City of Forsyth, Georgia; and

WHEREAS, to prevent or minimize illness to people resulting from this event, certain actions are required.

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority vested in me by local and state law, It is hereby declared that a local state of emergency exists and shall continue until the conditions requiring this declaration are abated.

WHEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED:

1. The local emergency operations plan is hereby activated in accordance with Chapter 25 of the City of Forsyth Code of Ordinances;
3. Section 25-3 Enforcement and Remedies;
4. Section 25-5 Authority to Wave Procedures and Fee Structures;
5. Section 25-7 Closed or Restricted Areas and Curfews, Prohibition of on Gatherings in accordance with the following directives.

(a) All public gatherings, public assemblies and events within the City of Forsyth, Georgia of ten (10) or more people shall be prohibited. This prohibition shall not include facilities owned by the City of Forsyth.

This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon its adoption and is entered at 12:00 AM/PM on March 23, 2020.

SO ORDERED AND ORDAINED this 23th day of March, 2020

THE CITY OF FORSYTH, GEORGIA

By: 
Eric Wilson, Mayor of Forsyth

Attest: 
Regina Ivie, City Clerk