

**CITY OF SOUTH SAINT PAUL DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY  
RESOLUTION NO. 2020-049**

**WHEREAS**, the virus named “SARS-CoV-2,” which is a new strain of coronavirus that has not previously been identified in humans and can easily spread from person to person, and which causes a disease named “coronavirus disease 2019”, commonly known as “COVID-19,” which is a respiratory disease that can result in serious injury or death; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 21, 2020 the first case of COVID-19 was detected in the United States; on March 6, 2020 the first case of COVID-19 was detected in the State of Minnesota; and as of today there are thirty-five known cases of COVID-19 in Minnesota; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar declared a public health emergency for COVID-19, beginning on January 27, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020, President Donald Trump declared that the COVID-19 outbreak in the United States constitutes a National Emergency; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020, Governor Tim Walz declared a Peacetime State of Emergency to authorize and all necessary resources to be used in support of the COVID-19 response; and

**WHEREAS**, as of March 15, 2020 the World Health Organization Situation Report confirms a total of 153,517 cases of COVID-19 in over 135 countries, including 5,735 deaths; and as of March 15, 2020 a total of 35 cases of COVID-19 have been reported in Minnesota;

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19 has been identified by the World Health Organization as a pandemic, and the United States Centers for Disease Control has provided guidance for individuals, healthcare professionals, and businesses to slow the spread of COVID-19, which include cancelling or postponing in-person events that involve more than fifty people for eight weeks; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of South St. Paul Emergency Management Director has been working diligently with local, state, and federal partners to maintain situational awareness and respond to COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, additional local cases will trigger a more aggressive public health response and are predicted to impact residents of South St. Paul and those who work in or travel through the City; and the need for social distancing, school closings, and quarantine methods to stop the spread of COVID-19 is expected to cause significant challenges; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Administrator, Mayor, and City Council find that this situation threatens the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the community and will cause a significant impact on the ability of public safety personnel to address any immediate dangers to the public as a result of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Administrator, Mayor, and City Council find that traditional sources of financial aid, assistance and relief will not be able to compensate for the potential impact of COVID-19 and additional coordination and assistance on resources, and have determined that the necessary resources to respond to and recover from this pandemic will exceed those resources available within the City of South St. Paul, and additional resources will be needed from Dakota County and state and federal sources.

**NOW, THEREFORE,** Mayor James Francis hereby declares, and the City Council of South St. Paul, Minnesota, hereby resolves as follows:

1. Under the authority given by Minnesota Statutes, Section 12.29, declares that a local emergency exists within South St. Paul, effective March 16, 2020, with all the powers and responsibilities attending thereto as provided by Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 12.
2. Directs City Staff to review ordinance and regulatory requirements, operations, civil and legal proceedings, events, and resources to determine whether the foregoing should be adjusted or suspended, and to make recommendations regarding additional emergency regulations to support the employees and residents of the City of South St. Paul.
3. Directs all City departments and offices to operate and support the response to this incident, under the direction and coordination of the Emergency Management Director, including implementing new employee protocols, strategies, and processes to ensure that public services are maintained.
4. Directs the City's Emergency Management Director and other appropriate City staff to request and coordinate appropriate aid and resources from surrounding jurisdictions, Dakota County, the State of Minnesota, and the Federal government, as needed.
5. Declares, under Minnesota Statutes, Section 13D.021, that in-person meetings of the City Council, Planning Commission, and other advisory commissions of the City of South St. Paul are not practical or prudent due to the COVID-19 health pandemic and the peacetime emergency declared by Governor Walz pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 12, and hereby directs that meetings of the City Council, Planning Commission, and other advisory commissions of the City shall be conducted by telephone or other electronic means, and hereby directs City Staff to take such action as may be necessary to enable such meetings to occur via telephone or other electronic means pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 13D.021, until such time as it is no longer impractical or imprudent for the City Council, Planning Commission, and other advisory commission to resume in-person meetings.
6. The City Council consents to and approves the extension of this emergency declaration pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 12.29. This emergency declaration shall continue for a period of eight (8) weeks from its effective date of March 16, 2020, unless terminated or extended by the City Council pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 12.29.
7. This declaration shall be given prompt and general publicity and be filed promptly by the City Clerk.

Declared this 16<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020.

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Mayor James Francis

Resolution adopted this 16<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020.

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Christy Wilcox  
City Clerk