

DECLARATION OF COMMUNITY FINANCIAL EMERGENCY IN THE CITY OF DU QUOIN

WHEREAS, a significant outbreak of Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) emerged in China; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a novel severe acute respiratory illness that can spread among people through respiratory transmissions and present with symptoms similar to those of influenza; and

WHEREAS, certain populations are at higher risk of experiencing more severe illness as a result of COVID-19 including older adults and people who have serious chronic medical conditions such as heart disease, diabetes, or lung disease; and

WHEREAS, The City of Du Quoin is continuing its efforts to prepare for any eventuality given that this is a novel illness with known health risks to the elderly and those with serious chronic medical conditions; and

WHEREAS, social distancing, which consists of maintain at least a six-foot distance between people, is the paramount strategy for minimizing the spread of COVID-19 in our communities; and,

WHEREAS, the Illinois Department of Public Health recommends Illinois residents avoid group dining in public settings, such as in bars and restaurants, which usually involves prolonged close social contact contrary to recommended practice for social distancing; and,

WHEREAS, frequently used surfaces in public settings, including bars and restaurants, if not cleaned and disinfected frequently and properly, also pose a risk of exposure; and,

WHEREAS, the number of suspected COVID-19 cases in Illinois is increasing exponentially and across more locations in Illinois, indicating that drastic social distancing measures are needed, even in communities where confirmed cases have not yet been identified, to reduce the number of people who become sick at any given time and the possibility of exhausting our health care resources; and,

WHEREAS, the ongoing spread of COVID-19 and the danger the virus poses to the public's health and wellness require the reduction of on-premises consumption of food and beverages; and,

WHEREAS, State agencies have been directed to temporarily reduce activities and workforce to core mission functions and essential operations, encouraging working remotely where possible; and,

WHEREAS, the Liquor Control Act of 1934, 235 ILCS 5, "shall be liberally construed, to the end that the health, safety, and welfare of the People of the State of Illinois shall be protected"; and,

WHEREAS, JB Pritzker, Governor of Illinois, declared all counties in the State of Illinois as a disaster area on March 9, 2020 ("Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation"); and,

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization characterized the COVID-19 outbreak as a pandemic; and,

WHEREAS, it is necessary and appropriate for the State of Illinois to immediately take measures to protect the public's health in response to this COVID-19 outbreak;

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the City of Du Quoin to be prepared to address any disaster therefore, it is necessary and appropriate to make additional resources within the City of Du Quoin available to ensure that the effects of COVID-19 are mitigated and minimized and that residents and visitors in the City of Du Quoin remain safe and secure; and

WHEREAS, this proclamation by the City of Du Quoin is in full support of the disaster declarations from the Governor of the State of Illinois, J.B. Pritzker, and the President of the United State of America, Donald J. Trump, and that proclaiming that an emergency exists within the City of Du Quoin assists the businesses of the City of Du Quoin that have suffered greatly due to the emergency, in pursuing financial assistance from the federal and state government; and

WHEREAS, this proclamation does not grant to the mayor the extraordinary power and authority pursuant to the Illinois Municipal Code (65 ILCS 5/11-1-6, Ch. 24, par. 11-1-6), and the City of Du Quoin will continue to conduct business as usual through the Du Quoin City Council;

NOW THEREFORE, it is hereby declared by the Mayor and the City Council of the City of Du Quoin Illinois, that a financial emergency exists within the City of Du Quoin, Illinois.

This Declaration is effective on April 2, 2020 and shall continue until such time as the financial emergency ends and this declaration is terminated by vote of the City Council of the City of Du Quoin.

Ayes: 5

Nayes: 0

Approved By:



Guy H. Alongi
Mayor

Attested By:



Ruth Hale
City Clerk