

CITY OF GOLDEN VALLEY PROCLAMATION DECLARING A LOCAL EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, the virus named “SARS-CoV-2,” 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 March 16, 2020, there are thirty-five known cases of COVID-19 in Minnesota, including cases in Hennepin County; 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, to begin retroactively on January 27, 2020; on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a world-wide pandemic; on March 13, 2020, President Donald Trump declared that the COVID-19 outbreak in the United States constitutes a National Emergency; and 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, the World Health Organization and the United States Centers for Disease Control have 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 Golden Valley’s Emergency Management Team has been preparing for weeks, 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 Golden Valley and those who work in or travel through the City, including City employees; and

WHEREAS, 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 Manager and Emergency Management Director find that this situation threatens the health, safety, and welfare of the members of the Golden Valley 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 Manager and Emergency Management Director find that traditional sources of financial aid, assistance and relief will not be able to compensate for the potential impact of COVID-19, and have determined that the necessary resources to respond to and recover from this pandemic will exceed those resources available within the City of Golden Valley, and additional resources will be needed from Hennepin County and state and federal sources; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes, section 12.29 authorizes the Mayor to declare the existence of a local emergency, invoke necessary portions of the City's Emergency Operations Plans and authorize aid and services in accordance with interjurisdictional agreements, such as mutual aid agreements; and

WHEREAS, under Minnesota Statutes, section 12.37 this emergency declaration authorizes the City to enter into contracts and perform other duties without following many of the time-consuming legal procedures normally required, including:

- Arranging for the performance of public work
- Contracting
- Incurring obligations
- Employing temporary workers
- Renting equipment
- Purchasing supplies and materials
- Complying with limitations on tax levies
- Appropriating and expending public funds, including publication of ordinances and resolutions, advertisement for bids, provisions of civil service laws and rules, competitive bidding, and budget requirements

NOW, THEREFORE, MAYOR SHEPARD HARRIS OF THE CITY OF GOLDEN VALLEY PROCLAIMS, DECLARES, REQUESTS, AND DIRECTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. Under the authority given by Minnesota Statutes, Section 12.29, declares that a local emergency exists within the City of Golden Valley, 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 Golden Valley.
3. Directs all City departments and offices to operate and support the response to this incident, under the direction and coordination of the City Manager, the Emergency Management Director and Emergency Management Team, including implementing new employee protocols, strategies, and processes to ensure that public services are maintained and City staff remain safe.
4. Directs the City's Emergency Management Director and other appropriate City staff to request and coordinate appropriate aid and resources from surrounding jurisdictions, Hennepin 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 Golden Valley 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:

- a. meetings of the City Council, Planning Commission, and other advisory commissions of the City shall be conducted by telephone or other electronic means; and
 - b. attendance by Councilmembers, Commissioners, City staff and members of the public at the regular meeting location is unfeasible; and
 - c. City Staff shall 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. This emergency declaration shall continue for a period of three (3) days from its effective date of March 16, 2020, unless further extended by or with the consent of the City Council pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 12.29, subd. 1.
 7. Orders that this declaration be given prompt and general publicity and that it be filed promptly by the City Clerk.

Adopted by the Mayor of the City of Golden Valley, Minnesota this 16th day of March, 2020.



Shepard M. Harris, Mayor