



DECLARATION OF DISASTER 2020-001

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization has declared the coronavirus (COVID-19) as a global pandemic on March 11, 2020; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a contagious virus with symptoms that include fever, coughing, and shortness of breath, and can range from mild to severe illness, which may lead to further complications including death; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 virus mainly spreads between people in close contact with one another through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes; and

WHEREAS, the continued worldwide spread of COVID-19 presents a an imminent threat of widespread illness, which requires emergency action for the protection of the citizens of Texarkana, Texas; and

WHEREAS, the implementation of mitigation strategies can slow the transmission of the virus; and

WHEREAS, the City of Texarkana, Texas, on the 17th day of March, 2020, experienced it's first confirmed case of the virus; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor of Texarkana, Texas has determined that extraordinary measures must be taken to protect the public health and welfare of our citizens.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE MAYOR OF TEXARKANA, TEXAS:

1. That a local state of disaster is hereby declared for Texarkana, Texas pursuant to §418.108(a) of the Texas Government Code.
2. Pursuant to §418.108(b) of the Government Code, the state of disaster shall continue for a period of not more than seven days from the date of this declaration unless continued or renewed by the City Council of Texarkana, Texas.
3. Pursuant to §418.108(c) of the Government Code, this declaration of a local state of disaster shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the City Secretary.
4. Pursuant to §418.108(d) of the Government Code, this declaration of a local state of disaster activates the city emergency management plan.
5. Pursuant to §418.108(g) of the Government Code, this declaration now limits the gathering of a group to not more than 50 people.
6. Pursuant to §418.108(g) of the Government Code, this declaration now strongly recommends a voluntary curfew from 7:00 PM to 7:00 AM for any person under the age of 18, not in the company of a parent or guardian, unless they are traveling to or from work or for a reasonable emergency situation.
7. That this proclamation shall take effect immediately from and after its issuance.

**ORDERED this 18<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020.**



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Bob Bruggeman  
Mayor