

Proclamation

WHEREAS, one of the greatest responsibilities of any elected official is the protection of the electorate served and the protection of the greater public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 poses a serious and potentially deadly threat to the public and the public health as the Federal Center for Disease Control ("CDC") has noted that serious illness occurs in 16% of cases with older people and people of all ages with severe chronic medical conditions – like heart disease, lung disease and diabetes, for example – seeming to be at a higher risk of developing serious COVID-19 illness and noting that the World Health Organization has determined COVID-19 to be a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, across the globe, the disease has been dramatically spread through contact by those with no known correlation to any affected areas or without contact with those known to be infected, called "community spread" and the Iowa Department of Public Health ("IDPH") has now identified community spread in the state of Iowa and has issued recommendations for individuals with underlying conditions, and all Iowans should be prepared for cancellations and disruptions in routine activities; and

WHEREAS, a high rate of infection has been shown to overwhelm medical systems throughout the world and numerous governmental entities and epidemiologists have stated that community spread in the United States poses the same risk of overwhelming American medical systems; and

WHEREAS, the IDPH has recommended the immediate implementation of several mitigation measures to have the most significant impact on slowing the spread of the virus, including avoiding large gatherings of more than 50 people, and considering adjustments for smaller gatherings with high risk groups; and

WHEREAS, Iowa Code Section 372.14(2) and the City of Fayette Code Section 15.02 grant the Mayor powers in emergency circumstances when public danger exists to take extraordinary steps to protect the public health and safety.

NOW, THEREFORE, IN CONSIDERATION OF THE FORGOING AND OTHER VALID EMERGENCY CONCERNS, I, ANDREW WENTHE, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF FAYETTE, PROCLAIM THE FOLLOWING:

I hereby determine that a state of emergency or public danger exists and direct that all gatherings of 50 people or more on public property or public right-of-way are hereby prohibited and any permits or permissions previously granted are hereby rescinded and any amounts paid for such permits shall be refunded upon request.

I further determine and direct the Police Chief to enforce such direction to avoid any such gatherings, whether formally or informally organized.

I further strongly suggest – consistent with the recommendations of the IDPH – that private gatherings of 50 or more people on private property should be avoided and appropriate adjustment for smaller gatherings with high risk groups should be made.

This Proclamation of emergency and public danger is part of an ongoing response of the City of Fayette to protect public health and safety and may be modified or superseded with more restrictive proclamations at any time as circumstances warrant.

PROCLAIMED THIS 17TH DAY OF MARCH, 2020 BY THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME BY THE CODE OF IOWA AND THE CITY OF FAYETTE CODE:

ATTEST:


Kris R. McGrane, City Administrator/Clerk


Andrew J. Wenthe, Mayor