

ORDINANCE NO. 20-48

AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH A “SHELTER IN PLACE ORDER” FOR THE CITY OF BIRMINGHAM DURING THE COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Birmingham recognizes the emergency declarations of the President of the United States, the Governor of the State of Alabama, and the Mayor of the City of Birmingham related to the spread of COVID-19 disease in our community; and,

WHEREAS, the Chief Health Officer of Jefferson County and the State Health Officer have issued orders for the closing of certain businesses and the limitations on the operation of essential businesses within their respective jurisdictions; and,

WHEREAS, the Council has authority under Ala. Code, Sec. 11-47-131, by ordinance, to prevent the introduction of contagious, infectious, or pestilential diseases into the City and to establish and regulate a sufficient quarantine, not inconsistent with laws of the state, in the City and to punish any breach of quarantine law; and,

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Birmingham, has authority pursuant to the Alabama Emergency Management Act of 1955, as amended, codified at Ala. Code, 1975, Sec. 31-9-10(b)(5), to exercise certain powers if the Council finds that any of the conditions listed in Sec. 31-9-2(a) have occurred or are likely to occur, specifically, the occurrence of disasters or emergencies of unprecedented size and destructiveness resulting from enemy attack, sabotage, or other hostile action, or from fire, flood, earthquake, or other natural causes; and,

WHEREAS, Sec. 31-9-10(b)(5)b. authorizes the Council to impose a public safety curfew for its inhabitants, to be enforced by the Birmingham Police Department or other appropriate law enforcement agency within the City; and,

WHEREAS, the Council finds that an emergency of unprecedented size resulting from the natural cause of community spread of a novel human coronavirus disease, COVID-19, has occurred in the City of Birmingham; and,

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a disease caused by a novel coronavirus, previously unknown in humans, and causes upper-respiratory tract illnesses that can range from mild to severe, spread quickly, and may cause death, particularly in older adults and persons with certain chronic medical conditions; and,

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 to be a global pandemic as of March 15, 2020; and,

WHEREAS, the spread and effect of COVID-19 has created a humanitarian crisis of unanticipated proportions; and,

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, President Donald Trump declared a national emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic, restricting international travel to prevent spread of the disease; and,

WHEREAS, Governor Kay Ivey declared a state of emergency for the State of Alabama on March 13, 2020; and,

WHEREAS, Mayor Randall L. Woodfin declared a state of emergency in the City of Birmingham on March 16, 2020; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Birmingham is threatened by COVID-19 because of the extraordinary ability of the virus to spread rapidly among humans, and COVID-19 thereby constitutes a clear and present threat to the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens and visitors of the City; and

WHEREAS, although under investigation and development, no vaccine or drug is currently available to cure or combat COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, as of March 23, 2020, Alabama has 196 identified cases of coronavirus, including 86 in Jefferson County, where the City of Birmingham is primarily located; and,

WHEREAS, the Council finds that it is in the best interest of the public peace, health, and safety, and to preserve the lives of citizens of the City of Birmingham, to impose a public safety curfew to further the purposes of the measures that have been ordered to date to control community spread of COVID-19 in the City of Birmingham.

SECTION 1.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Birmingham that a “Shelter in Place Order,” which establishes a public safety curfew, is hereby imposed in the City of Birmingham, effective as provided in Section 5. This curfew shall continue in effect until 12:00 am (midnight) April 3, 2020, unless it is determined that the emergency conditions no longer exist prior to that date but may be extended if the duration of the emergency conditions continue beyond that date.

(a) This curfew shall apply to all persons within the City of Birmingham. During such curfew, all persons shall not be or remain in public places and, if residents of the City of Birmingham, shall remain in their places of residence, except as further provided in subsection (e) of this ordinance.

This curfew shall not apply to:

- (1) public safety or emergency service activities, including but not limited to law enforcement, fire and rescue services, and emergency management agencies
- (2) first responders, crisis intervention workers, public health workers, emergency management personnel, emergency dispatchers, law enforcement personnel, and related contractors
- (3) persons employed by or contracted to utilities, cable, and telecommunications companies and engaged in activities necessary to maintain or restore utility, cable, and telecommunications services

- (4) persons providing fire, police, sanitation, security, emergency and hospital services, food delivery services and other deliveries of merchandise or mail
- (5) persons seeking essential services or commodities; persons who are vulnerable to the most serious effects of the COVID-19 disease must remain at home, unless seeking medical treatment
- (6) persons supplying or restocking businesses in order to provide essential services or products, i.e. home improvement, groceries, fuel delivery locations, pharmacies or other retailers offering emergency supplies, transportation of fuels, movement of equipment and personnel for the provision of humanitarian support, and movement of equipment necessary for the protection of critical infrastructure or public safety
- (7) persons employed by the federal, state, county or city government or their agencies working within the course and scope of their public service employment. Such employees shall follow any current or future directives regarding performance of their duties, including working from home, issued by their respective employers.
- (8) persons experiencing homelessness within the City

(b) All businesses within the City of Birmingham shall comply with the Order of the Jefferson County Chief Health Officer, as amended March 22, 2020, or as may be amended, relating to the closing of nonessential businesses. Businesses within the Shelby County portion of the City, shall comply with the orders of the State Health Officer. The restrictions detailed in the Orders of the Jefferson County Health Officer and the State Health Officers are hereby adopted in this ordinance.

(c) All public and private gatherings of 10 or more persons or of any size where a consistent distance of at least six feet cannot be maintained are prohibited, except as to those exempted activities further provided in this ordinance. This provision does not apply to gatherings within a single household or living unit.

(d) Subject to the exceptions further provided in subsection (e) of this ordinance, all travel, including, without limitation, travel on foot, bicycle, scooter, motorcycle, automobile, or public transit is prohibited. Transportation in Interstate Commerce is not governed by this ordinance.

(e) Exceptions. People may lawfully leave their residence while this ordinance is in effect only to engage in the following activities:

(i) First 24 hour allowance. This ordinance shall not apply, for a 24-hour period following the effective date above, to allow employees and business owners to access to their workplaces to gather belongings or address other administrative needs, so long as social distancing requirements are followed. Workplaces closed by order of the Chief Health Officer shall remain closed to the public.

(ii) Essential Activities. To engage in certain essential activities, including, without limitation, visiting a health or veterinary care professional, obtaining medical supplies or medication, obtaining grocery items (including, without limitation, canned food, dry goods,

fresh fruits and vegetables, pet supplies, fresh or frozen meats, fish, and poultry, any other household consumer products and products necessary to maintain the safety and sanitation of residences and other buildings) for their household or to deliver to others, or for legally mandated government purposes. Additionally, any travel related to (a) providing care for minors, the elderly, dependents, persons with disabilities, or other vulnerable persons; (b) returning to one's place of residence from outside the City; (c) travelling to one's place of residence located outside the City; (d) travelling through the City from one location outside the City to another location outside the City; (e) compliance with an order of law enforcement or court shall be exempt from this ordinance; (f) travelling to or from a place of business which provides essential services by owners and employees of such business; or (g) legally mandated government purposes. Persons engaging in these essential activities shall maintain reasonable social distancing practices. This includes maintaining a distance of at least six-feet away from others, frequently washing hands with soap and water for at least twenty seconds or using hand sanitizer, covering coughs or sneezes (into the sleeve or elbow, not hands), regularly cleaning high-touch surfaces, and not shaking hands. These Essential Activities are subject to change and are not limited to the activities listed in this subsection. Individuals must use reasonable judgement as it relates to the many, and various circumstances during this time. At the very least, businesses that have not been declared nonessential by the Chief Health Officer of Jefferson County or the State Health Officer, as applicable, that remain open must implement consistent social distancing practices of six feet between persons to avoid the spread of COVID-19.

(iii) Outdoor Activities. To engage in outdoor activity and recreation, provided that the recreational activity does not involve physical contact with other persons and individuals comply with social distancing requirements, including, without limitation, walking, hiking, running, cycling; use of scooters, roller skates, skateboards, or other personal mobility devices; or travel in a vehicle with household members to a location where it is possible to walk, hike, run or ride a bike, or operate personal mobility devices, while maintaining social distancing practices. Indoor and outdoor playgrounds for children, except those located within childcare centers, shall be closed for all purposes.

(iv) Work in Support of Essential Activities. To perform work providing essential products and services or to otherwise carry out activities specifically permitted in this ordinance.

(v) To care for or support a friend, family member, or pet in another household.

(vi) Provision of essential goods and services. This includes those businesses and activities deemed essential by Order of the Chief Health Officer.

(viii) Providing any services, goods, or work necessary to build, operate, maintain or manufacture essential infrastructure, including without limitation construction of commercial, office and institutional buildings, residential buildings and housing; airport operations, food supply, concessions, and construction; port operations and construction; water, sewer, gas, electrical, oil extraction and refining; roads and highways, public

transportation and rail; solid waste collection and removal; flood control and watershed protection; internet and telecommunications systems (including the provision of essential global, national, and local infrastructure for computing services, business infrastructure, communications, and web-based services); and manufacturing and distribution companies deemed essential to the supply chains of the industries referenced in this Paragraph, provided that they carry out those services and that work in compliance with social distancing practices as prescribed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Jefferson County Chief Health Officer, to the extent possible.

(f) The City shall work with governmental and nongovernmental partners to provide emergency shelter, to the extent possible, to unhoused persons in the City. Providers shall make all efforts to provide protection from the spread of COVID-19.

SECTION 2. To the extent that this ordinance is in conflict with other ordinances of the City, this ordinance shall supersede the others until this ordinance is amended or repealed.

SECTION 3. Failure to comply with this ordinance is punishable by a fine of up to \$500.00 and/or up to thirty (30) days in the municipal jail.

SECTION 4. If any subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this ordinance or any application of it to any person, structure, or circumstance is held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a decision of a court of competent jurisdiction, then such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions or applications of this ordinance.

SECTION 5. This Ordinance shall become effective upon passage, approval and publication or as otherwise provided by law.

Lee Frazier, City Clerk

A True and Correct Copy
Adopted by the City Council March 24, 2020
Birmingham News 3/25/2020