

**PROCLAMATION OF STATE OF EMERGENCY  
FOR CITY OF MORGANTON**

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization declared the Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) a global pandemic on March 11, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of North Carolina declared a state of emergency on March 10, 2020 to address the COVID-19 public health emergency, to coordinate the State's response thereto, and to provide for the health, safety and welfare of residents and visitors across the State; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services has confirmed numerous cases of COVID-19 in North Carolina, and several of those cases are in Western North Carolina within reasonably close proximity to the City of Morganton; and

WHEREAS, residents of the City of Morganton travel to and from those counties where confirmed cases of COVID-19 are present, and residents of those counties travel to and from the City of Morganton regularly, thus increasing the risk for exposure; and

WHEREAS, there is an existing or threatened emergency endangering the lives, safety, health and welfare of the people within the City of Morganton, and public safety authorities may be unable to maintain public order or afford adequate protection to lives or property; and

WHEREAS, during a state of emergency and imposing the restrictions and prohibitions ordered herein is necessary to maintain order and protect public health, safety and welfare, and to secure property; and

WHEREAS, Article 1A of Chapter 166A of the North Carolina General Statutes grants powers for local government leadership to declare states of emergency when necessary to maintain order and to protect public health, safety and welfare; and Chapter 3 of Part 3 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Morganton grants power to the Mayor to declare a state of emergency and take other actions as necessary during times of great public crisis.

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority vested in me as the Mayor of the City of Morganton under Article 1A of Chapter 166A of the North Carolina General Statutes, and under Chapter 3 of Part 3 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Morganton.

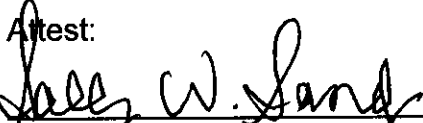
1. A state of emergency is hereby declared within the entire jurisdiction of the City of Morganton.

2. I hereby authorize the City Manager, and/or her designees, to take appropriate protective action to prevent the spread of COFID-19, including implementing restrictions, modifications or alterations to any City operations, services or facilities, and to take other protective measures as she deems appropriate, and consistent with guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in accordance with execute orders issued by the President of the United States and/or the Governor of the State of North Carolina.
3. I hereby order all City of Morganton public safety officers and employees, and all other emergency services personnel subject to the control of the City, to cooperate in the enforcement and implementation of the provisions of this declaration, all applicable local ordinances and state and federal laws, and the Burke County Emergency Operations Plan.
4. I hereby order this Declaration:
  - (a) Be distributed to the news media and other organizations calculated to bring its contents to the attention of the general public in and around the City of Morganton;
  - (b) Be posted in prominent places at entrances to the Morganton City Hall and any other City owned facilities as may be necessary; and
  - (c) Be filed with the Clerk of the City Council of the City of Morganton;
  - (d) Be distributed to others as necessary to ensure proper implementation of this Declaration.
5. This Declaration shall take effect on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020 at 8:00 a.m. and shall remain in effect until further notice.

Proclaimed and issued this 19<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020 at 5:00 p.m., and to remain in effect until modified or rescinded.

  
Ronnie Thompson, Mayor

Attest:

  
Sally W. Sandy, City Clerk

(CORPORATE SEAL)

