



CITY OF WATONGA

PROCLAMATION

A PROCLAMATION ACKNOWLEDGING A STATE OF SERIOUS PUBLIC CONCERN WITHIN THE CITY OF WATONGA, OKLAHOMA

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) to be a global pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a National Emergency concerning the COVID-19 outbreak; and

WHEREAS, as of March 15, 2020, the Governor of the State of Oklahoma has declared an emergency caused by the impending threat of COVID-19 to the people of this State and the public's peace, health and safety; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Oklahoma has deemed it necessary for the State and political subdivisions within all seventy-seven counties of the State to render mutual assistance and cooperate with Federal government emergency functions during the continuance of the State emergency; and

WHEREAS, the City of Watonga, Oklahoma is a political subdivision of the State of Oklahoma in Blaine County, Oklahoma, and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Watonga, Oklahoma have increasingly demonstrated adherence to guidance from public health officials in voluntary efforts to protect the health and safety of the citizens of Watonga, Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, the City of Watonga has initiated local Unified Command with City of Watonga Fire, Police, and Emergency Medical Services departments for the purpose of carrying out COVID-19 mitigation and response efforts.

WHEREAS, Blaine County has 0 confirmed positive for OSDH Watonga, Oklahoma will follow Gov. Stitts directive per Executive Order 2020-07.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GARY OLSEN, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF WATONGA, OKLAHOMA, ACTING UNDER THE POWER VESTED IN ME BY THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WATONGA, OKLAHOMA AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE STATUTES OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM:

- I. Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) has created a state of serious public concern within the City of Watonga, Oklahoma.



II. City of Watonga, Oklahoma municipal operations shall observe and adhere to public health guidance for discretionary travel and COVID-19 exposure mitigation, including but not limited to:

- a.** Suspend Watonga Utility Authority utilities cutoffs, while maintaining existing billing practices; and
- b.** Restricting public access to City of Watonga, Oklahoma municipal facilities at City Hall, Watonga Public Library, Watonga Parks, Watonga Fire Department, Watonga Police Department, and other municipal facilities as deemed appropriate; and
- c.** Reporting municipal employee discretionary travel beyond the boundaries of Blaine County, Oklahoma and/or the boundaries of the municipal employees' counties of residence, including risk assessment to determine fitness for duty prior to reporting for duty; and
- d.** Providing public health and safety assistance to vulnerable populations within the corporate limits of the City of Watonga, Oklahoma; and
- e.** The acquisition and preservation of personal protective equipment in service to the health and public safety needs of the citizens and visitors of the City of Watonga, Oklahoma; and
- f.** Carry out emergency operations as a Unified Command order to mitigate the transmission of COVID-19 and conduct outbreak response activities as warranted by existing circumstances in the City of Watonga, Oklahoma.

III. Citizens of Watonga, Oklahoma are strongly encouraged to engage in socially responsible behaviors consistent with protecting the health and safety of all parties to the City of Watonga, Oklahoma, including but not limited to:

- a.** Appropriate personal hygiene including behaviors consistent with reducing respiratory disease such as frequent handwashing, covering coughs and sneezes, and proper allergy symptoms management; and
- b.** Attaining knowledge and understanding of COVID-19 prevention, recognition, and treatment; and
- c.** Appropriate self-isolation of individuals with signs and symptoms of respiratory infections, including fever, shortness of breath, sore throat, and/or cough; and
- d.** Properly seeking professional medical attention and public health guidance when sick; and
- e.** Socially responsible patronage of local businesses including reasonable purchasing of staples, social distancing, other nontraditional accessing of local goods and services; and
- f.** Other socially responsible behaviors in the interest of preserving and protecting the health and safety of vulnerable populations within the City of Watonga, Oklahoma.



- IV.** Business entities serving stakeholders within the City of Watonga, Oklahoma and the surrounding areas are strongly encouraged to observe and enact business practices consistent with sustaining operations during, and recovery efforts after, the COVID-19 emergency, including but not limited to:
- a.** Becoming informed of assistance programs available to small businesses and seeking assistance as needed; and
 - b.** Implementing purchasing limits and otherwise discouraging panic over-purchasing, thereby preserving availability of goods and services for the population; and
 - c.** Implementing non-traditional and innovative practices designed to limit exposure to and transmission of COVID-19.
- V.** City of Watonga, Oklahoma municipal government will enact practices that prioritize health and safety of citizens and stakeholders including but not limited to;
- a.** Appropriate utilization of updated allowances in the Oklahoma Open Meetings Act to Mitigate exposure risk and transmission of COVID-19 while maintaining public participation in meetings of the City of Watonga, Oklahoma City Council, Authorities, and Committees subject to open meetings; and
 - b.** Timely consideration and action to requested support from Blaine County, Oklahoma, State of Oklahoma, and Federal entities cooperating in the COVID-19 emergency; and
 - c.** Giving priority consideration to COVID-19 emergency versus other non-essential municipal government operations.

PROCLAIMED THIS 31 DAY OF March 2020



Mayor Gary Olsen