



Date: March 13, 2020

Interoffice Memorandum

To: City Commission *OK*

From: City Manager Tom Barwin and Mayor Jen Ahearn-Koch *Jak*

Subject: COVID-19 Public Health Emergency – Local Declaration of Emergency

In light of the action taken by the Governor of the State of Florida to declare a state wide public health emergency, as articulated in Executive Orders 20-51 and 20-52 in response to Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 – COVID 19 and following the advice of the Governor, Department of Health, and mirroring the public policy of Sarasota County as of March 12, 2020 the City of Sarasota hereby declares a city wide Public Health Emergency.

All gatherings within the City of Sarasota scheduled to occur on or before March 20, 2020 likely to attract more than 250 persons are strongly advised to cancel. This includes all gatherings managed, permitted or supported by City Staff. This shall include events at all City owned or operated facilities, specifically including the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall. Those events that proceed should have screening measures in place to prevent people who have been exposed to the virus from entering and to protect the health and safety of attendees.

This declaration does not apply to events or gatherings attended by under 250 persons. The City of Sarasota encourages all persons to adhere to this declaration and to postpone, reschedule and discourage participation in large social gatherings until after the public health threat of COVID-19 has passed.

New special events will not be permitted by the City until further notice.

This declaration is made in accordance with Chapter 13 of the City Code which authorizes the City Manager, with the concurrence of a member of the City Commission, to declare a Local State of Emergency, in the interest of public safety and welfare, for a period not exceeding seven days, with extensions authorized in seven day increments if necessary to continue to respond effectively to the health and safety concerns of residents and visitors.

Mayor Jen Ahearn-Koch concurs with this declaration.

Per City ordinance, this Order shall be filed with the office of the City Auditor and Clerk.

cc: Robert Fournier
Marlon Brown
Shayla Griggs
John Lege
Department Directors