WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a respiratory illness caused by a virus that spreads rapidly from person to person and may result in serious illness or death, and constitutes a clear and present threat to the lives, health, welfare, and safety of the people of the City of Miramar, Florida; and

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2020, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis promulgated Executive Order 20-52 and declared a State of Emergency in Florida in response to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order 20-52, Section (4)(0)(1) provides that each municipality in the State of Florida is authorized to waive the procedures and formalities otherwise required of the political subdivisions by law pertaining to the taking of whatever prudent action is necessary to ensure the public's health, safety, and welfare; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 22-86(6) of the City of Miramar Code of Ordinances, on March 14, 2020, the City Manager and the City Mayor declared a local State of Emergency as a result of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, Broward County has also issued emergency orders closing businesses, restricting non-essential activities and urging a Shelter-in-Place: Safer at Home Policy to reduce the opportunities for community spread including but not limited to Broward County Emergency Orders 20-01, 20-02 and 20-03 effective 12:01 Friday, March 27, 2020; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is an emergency whose increasing effects are being felt within the City of Miramar and on account thereof, there is reason to believe that the virus will continue to spread; and

WHEREAS, to protect the health and well-being of the community, to create social distancing, to minimize contact and in an effort to limit community spread of COVID-19, several states, counties and local governments have adopted various versions of “Stay at Home,” “Shelter in Place” and “Safer at Home” Orders.

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 252.46, Florida Statutes, the municipalities have the power to issue emergency orders with the force of law; and

WHEREAS, as of the date of this Order the City is aware of confirmed cases of COVID-19 within the jurisdictional boundaries of the City of Miramar and to limit its
potential community spread, it is now necessary for the City of Miramar to implement restrictions for the general health, safety, and welfare of the community; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 252.38(3) and 252.46 Florida Statutes; and Sections 3.01 and 3.03 of the Charter of the City of Miramar; and Section 22-86(6) of the City of Miramar Code of Ordinances, as well as City Resolution 20-94 passed and adopted on March 18, 2020, the City Manager has the power to issue emergency orders with the force of law.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

Section 1. Each resident is hereby ordered to stay home and within the entirety of their owned or rented property. The order to stay at home does not require residents to confine themselves to the interior of their homes. Residents may make use of all exterior portions of their homes such as patios, porches, yards, and driveways. Residents may also leave their place of residence and travel to another place in accordance with Section 3, below.

Section 2. Unless a person has a Permissible Use as provided for in Section 3 below, no person shall travel or be on or upon any public right of way, including but not limited to, streets, canals, or sidewalks, within the boundaries of the City of Miramar.

Section 3. Permissible Use. Notwithstanding Section 1 and 2, all residents and visitors in the City may lawfully engage in the following activities:

(1) Essential Businesses. Residents and visitors may engage in travel to Essential Businesses and provide minimum basic operations to non-essential businesses as identified in Broward County Emergency Orders 20-01 and 20-02, as further refined in Broward County Emergency Order 20-03; and as may be amended or extended. For clarity, businesses may also continue operations consisting exclusively of employees or contractors performing activities at their own residences (i.e., working from home). All Essential Businesses are strongly encouraged to remain open.

(2) Emergency Assistance. Residents and visitors may engage in travel and similar activities to obtain assistance from law enforcement, fire-rescue, or other emergency services.

(3) Personal Support Activities. Residents and visitors may travel to and from their homes to care for or support a friend, companion, family member, pet or livestock, support groups, or a vulnerable person.

(4) Work in Support of Essential Businesses. Residents and visitors in the City may continue to perform work for and in support of businesses authorized to be open to the public in accordance with Broward County Emergency Order 20-01, 20-02, and 20-03, and any local government, the State government, or the Federal government.

(5) Outdoor Recreational Activities. In areas not otherwise closed by a separate Emergency or Executive Order, residents may engage in outdoor activity and recreation while staying six (6) feet apart from another person or group of people, and so as long as residents are in compliance with size of public gatherings as defined in Section 7 below.
Religious Activities. Residents and visitors may travel to and from places of worship. Places of worship must comply with Social Distancing Requirements as defined in Section 4 below, to the greatest extent feasible and the size of public gatherings as defined in Section 7 below. Places of worship are encouraged to livestream their services in lieu of in-person gatherings.

Government Employees and Emergency Personnel. All first responders, gang and crisis intervention workers, public health workers, emergency management personnel, emergency dispatchers, law enforcement personnel and related contractors, persons working for emergency service providers, and government employees performing work in the course and scope of their employment are categorically exempt from this Order.

Public Transit. Public transit may be used for the above listed activities. People riding on public transit must comply with Social Distancing Requirements as defined in Section 4 below, to the greatest extent feasible.

Section 4. Social Distancing Requirements. A person in a public space shall:

1. Practice social distancing by staying at least 6 feet away whenever practicable from another person, excluding immediate family members, caretakers or, household members;
2. Cover all coughs and sneezes with their elbow or tissue;
3. Not shake hands;
4. Not enter any public place if the person exhibits any flu or COVID-19 like symptoms and/or has a fever over 99.9 degrees Fahrenheit unless that person is traveling to or from a hospital, doctor’s office, urgent care, walk-in clinic, or pharmacy;
5. If a person is exhibiting flu or COVID-19 like symptoms or has a fever over 99.9 degrees Fahrenheit and is seeking medical treatment, the person shall first contact their medical provider by phone before appearing at the medical provider’s office; and
6. If a person is exhibiting flu or COVID-19 like symptoms or has a fever over 99.9 degrees Fahrenheit and requires a prescription or a refill thereof and the pharmacy has a drive-thru window and/or delivery service, that person shall utilize the drive-thru window and/or delivery service to receive their medication.

Section 5. Essential Businesses Employee Screening. For those businesses deemed to be an Essential Business, as set forth above, these facilities shall implement employee screening and prohibit any employee from entering the premises if they affirmatively answer any of the below questions, as recommended by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):

1. Have you returned from international travel (anywhere outside the United States) or been on a cruise within the last 14 days?
2. Have you been in contact with anyone who has returned from international travel or been on a cruise within the last 14 days?
3. Have you been in any gathering of 50 people or more in the last 14 days?
4. Have you traveled through any airport within the past 14 days?
(5) Have you traveled to any area within the United States of America known to have high numbers of positive cases of COVID-19, as outlined by the Centers for Disease Control?

(6) Have you experienced signs or symptoms of COVID-19, such as fever over 99.9 degrees Fahrenheit, cough or shortness of breath?

Section 6. Essential Businesses Cleaning Protocols. For those businesses deemed to be an Essential Business, as set forth above, these facilities must make every effort to:

(1) Provide disinfectant wipes or equivalent for shopping carts and baskets or disinfect shopping carts and baskets after each use.

(2) Disinfect hourly, at a minimum all check out areas, including but not limited to, conveyor belts, cash registers, and credit card areas.

(3) Disinfect after closing or before opening all areas of the business that customers may touch or come into contact.

(4) Require employees or independent contractors present to wash and/or disinfect their hands at least once per hour.

(5) Clean and disinfect any pen, stylus or screen used to sign receipts after each customer or waive the need to sign a receipt.

(6) Ensure that no more than 10 people, including staff, are gathered in any particular area of the Essential Business.

(7) Ensure that customers at checkout are separated by at least 6 feet.

(8) Disinfect all door handles used by the general public at least hourly during business hours.

(9) Essential Businesses with waiting rooms must ensure that no person shall be seated within 6 feet of another person and all seats must be disinfected after each use.

(10) Do not allow more than 25% of their approved maximum capacity into any location.

Section 7. Limit on Gatherings. All gatherings of 4 or more people shall be prohibited except for those identified in Section 3 above. Social Distancing Requirements must be observed.

Section 8. Homelessness. Individuals experiencing homelessness are strongly urged to obtain shelter, and governmental and other entities are strongly urged to make such shelter available as soon as possible and to the maximum extent practicable (and to utilize Social Distancing Requirements in their operation).

Section 9. Exceptions for Utilities and Government Personnel. Nothing in this Order shall be construed to limit or restrict movement or use of the public rights of way for use by other local governments, the state government, and federal government or their employees, and utility providers and contractors while engaged in their duties.

Section 10. Enforcement. This Order is in addition to, and supplements, the City’s Declaration of a State of Emergency, County Emergency Orders, and State of Florida Executive Orders and shall be strictly adhered to at all times. This Order may be enforced by City law enforcement personnel through issuance of Notices to Appear or arrest, pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 252, Florida Statutes, and other applicable state,
County and City laws, rules and regulations, or through the issuance of Code Violations and Notices of Violation pursuant to applicable provisions of Florida law, Chapter 162, Florida Statutes, and City Code.

Section 11. No person shall occupy any City facilities or parks that are closed to the public, including passive (not gated) parks.

Section 12. Community organizations, including but not limited to Homeowners Association (HOA) and Homeowners groups are strongly urged to apply the policies set forth in this Order within their communities in order to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public.

Section 13. Effective Date. This Emergency Order is effective as of 12:01 a.m. on March 28, 2020 and shall remain in full force and effect until terminated.

Section 14. Effective Date. The declared emergency will extend for the same period of time as Executive Order Number 20-03, executed by Broward County Administrator Bertha Henry on March 26, 2020, including any extensions of same.


Ordered by: Vernon E. Hargray, City Manager