Joyce Hudman

Joyce Hudman County Clerk Brazoria County, Texas

STATE OF TEXAS \$

COUNTY OF BRAZORIA \$

## DECLARATION OF DISASTER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, in December 2019 a novel coronavirus, designated COVID-19, was detected in China and has since spread throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a respiratory disease, with symptoms that include fever, cough, shortness of breath, and in some cases can cause death; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, as acknowledged and reported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the World Health Organization characterized COVID-19 a global pandemic; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a public health emergency, meaning immediate extraordinary measures must be taken to contain, control, and prevent the spread of COVID-19 throughout Brazoria County, including isolating, quarantining, or restricting the movement of individuals, groups of individuals, and/or property, and including, if and as necessary, compelling individuals, groups of individuals, and/or property to undergo additional health measures to contain, control, and prevent the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, it is critical to take extraordinary steps to prepare for, respond to, and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 to protect the health of the residents of Brazoria County;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Texas Government Code Chapter 418, a County Judge may declare a local state of disaster in and for a Texas County, and may exercise the powers granted therein; and

WHEREAS, I, L. M. "Matt" Sebesta, Jr., County Judge of Brazoria County, Texas, have determined and hereby declare that immediate extraordinary measures must now be taken to contain, control, and prevent the spread of COVID-19 in Brazoria County;

NOW, THEREFOE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNTY JUDGE OF BRAZORIA COUNTY, TEXAS:

- 1. That a local state of disaster for public health emergency is hereby declared for Brazoria County, Texas, pursuant to §418.108(a) of the Texas Government Code.
- 2. Pursuant to §418.108(b) of the Texas Government Code, the local state of disaster for public health emergency shall continue for a period of not more than seven days from the date of this declaration unless continued or renewed by the Commissioners Court of Brazoria County, Texas.

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- 3. Pursuant to §418.108(c) of the Texas Government Code, this declaration of a local state of disaster for public health emergency shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the County Clerk.
- 4. Pursuant to §418.108(d) of the Texas Government Code, this declaration of a local state of disaster for public health emergency activates the Brazoria County emergency management plan.
- 5. Any individual, group of individuals, and/or property subject to a Local Health Authority Order that isolates, quarantines, or restricts the movement of that individual, group of individuals, and/or property or isolates, quarantines, or restricts the movement to, from, or within a property, shall immediately limit ingress and egress accordingly and take such other measures as specified by that Local Health Authority Order.
- 6. Pursuant to the authority granted under the laws of the State of Texas, this proclamation also authorizes Brazoria County to take any and all further lawful actions necessary to contain, control, and prevent the spread of COVID-19 in Brazoria County.
  - 7. That this proclamation shall take effect immediately from and after its issuance.

DECLARED this the 17th day of March, 2020.

L. M. "Matt" Sebesta, Jr.

County Judge

Brazoria County, Texas