

EMERGENCY EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 2020-2

March 20, 2020

To: All Elected Officials, Department Heads, Division Chiefs, Independent Agencies, Authorities, Boards, Commissions, and Councils

From: Lenny Curry, Mayor

Subject: Emergency Beach Closure

Pursuant to Section 674.206, Jacksonville Ordinance Code, on March 13, 2020, I issued Emergency Proclamation 2020-001, which proclaimed and declared a public emergency in the City of Jacksonville concerning the threat to the City's citizens, resources and general welfare posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Once this emergency was declared, Section 674.206, Jacksonville Ordinance Code, grants me the authority to issue such executive orders, proclamations and regulations as I deem reasonable and necessary to fulfill my solemn responsibility to protect the City from this emergency threat. During the term of this emergency period, these emergency executive orders, proclamations and regulations have the full force and effect of law.

The U.S. Center for Disease Control (CDC) continues to provide guidance to reduce introduction of the COVID-19 virus into new communities and to slow the spread of infection in communities already affected by the virus. Because this virus is spread by close social contact, including among individuals who are currently asymptomatic, the Governor and I and thousands of public officials have issued orders to assist in limiting the spread of the virus.

I have restricted certain businesses and prohibited certain gatherings to minimize the potential for the spread of this disease. I have repeatedly encouraged the City's residents to responsibly practice appropriate social distancing and other health-conscious actions. I have also encouraged residents to limit non-essential, public outings and appearances. Unfortunately, Jacksonville residents, visitors and others have failed to heed these warnings by continuing to congregate at the City's beaches in large gatherings. In order to reduce the threat of large-scale exposure, I now find it necessary to close those beaches to public access.

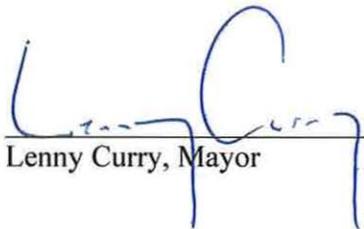
THEREFORE, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor by the Charter and Ordinance Code and as Chief Executive and Administrative Officer of the Consolidated Government, it is ordered:

Effective at 5:00 P.M. on Friday, March 20, 2020, all public beaches within the Consolidated City shall be closed to public access. Any unauthorized person present on any public beach at any time before this prohibition is lifted shall be subject to prosecution or civil enforcement.

The intent of these regulations is to reduce the threat of large scale exposure from high numbers of individuals gathered for social, commercial and non-essential purposes. By imposing these requirements, the CDC and other health organizations have indicated that the spread of this rapidly transmitted disease will be reduced and will lessen the impact on the City's limited health, medical and administrative resources.

Approved and issued:




Lenny Curry, Mayor

Approved as to form:


Jason Gabriel, General Counsel

Approval Date: March 20, 2020

**Effective Date: March 20, 2020
5:00 P.M.**