

**ORDER MANDATING CLOSURE OF SHORT TERM RENTAL FACILITIES
IN THE CITY OF GALVESTON ISSUED BY
THE MAYOR OF GALVESTON**

WHEREAS, the City of Galveston, Texas has declared a state of emergency in accordance with Texas Government Code Chapter 418 due to the Coronavirus/COVID 19; and

WHEREAS, information issued by the Federal Center for Disease Control and the Texas Department of Health Services related to the Coronavirus have stressed undertaking steps to control the spread of the virus; and

WHEREAS, those entities have urged that the failure to take steps to diminish the spread of the virus will result in the overwhelming of the health care system in this area with a concomitant increase of mortality; and

WHEREAS, the Galveston County Health District has confirmed the presence of Corona virus in Galveston County caused by community spread with fourteen confirmed cases in Galveston County and more being contemplated; and

WHEREAS, the present emphasis is the control of community spread of the virus by limiting the number of citizens who are present in a given area; and

WHEREAS, community control slowing the spread of the virus includes restricting vehicular traffic on certain beaches to limit the number of citizens who might spread the virus; and

WHEREAS, short term rental locations, which provide rental of residential premises to third parties for periods of thirty days or less, in the City are currently operating and are typically occupied by a concentration of individuals within the unit who have come from a variety of places within the country some of which may have active shelter in place orders issued by their local governments, and the concentration of those individuals provides for vector of community spread of the disease; and

WHEREAS, operators of short term rental units do not have the professional housekeeping staff and management present to ensure that appropriate cleaning and hygiene measures are enforced in their locations; and

WHEREAS, the determination to implement control measures involves consideration of the balance between the social utility of the control measure implements versus the effect of the measure on the private and public sectors ability to deliver goods and services to the general population and preserve the public confidence; and

WHEREAS, it appears the implementation of control measures to control the community spread of the virus by closing short term rentals in the City of Galveston is appropriate.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT DECLARED BY THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF GALVESTON, TEXAS, THAT:

SECTION 1. The findings and recitations set out in the preamble to this ORDER are found to be true and correct and they are hereby adopted by the Mayor and made a part hereof for all purposes.

SECTION 2. It shall be unlawful for any person to rent or lease residential premises under their control to any third party as a short term rental. This Order does not apply to motels, hotels or bed and breakfasts that have on staff housekeeping and management staff who ensure proper health and cleaning protocols are utilized.

SECTION 3. Any person who shall violate any provision of this Order shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be fined in a penal sum as allowed by law.

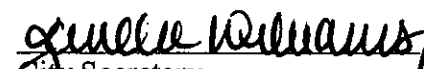
SECTION 4. In accordance with the Texas Disaster Act, this order shall take effect immediately at 10:45 A.M. on March 24, 2020 and shall terminate seven days from the entry of this Order or until further Order of the City.

SO DECLARED AND ORDERED, at 10:45 a.m. on this 24th day of March 2020.



JAMES YARBROUGH
MAYOR, CITY OF GALVESTON

ATTEST:



Julie Williams
City Secretary

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



DONALD S. GLYWASKY
CITY ATTORNEY

