

**ORDER MANDATING CLOSURE OF COMMERCIAL
FISHING PIER AND CHARTER BOAT OPERATIONS
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 within a given area; and

WHEREAS, for purposes of this Order, commercial fishing piers and charter boats are defined as those operations which charge a fee or some other consideration for an individual to come upon the premises or aboard the boat to engage in fishing or crabbing activities and for charter boats includes both bay and offshore charters; and

WHEREAS, the nature of commercial fishing piers and commercial charter operations is that people are concentrated in a limited area in close proximity to each other such they are unable to maintain the recommended distance between themselves and others engaging in the activity; and

WHEREAS, that close proximity of people utilizing commercial fishing piers and charter boats creates an instance which could allow transmission of the virus from one person to the next and requires the implementation of control measures; 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 commercial fishing piers and charter boat operations 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 commercial fishing pier or charter boat to operate in the City of Galveston and such operations are Ordered to be closed.

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.

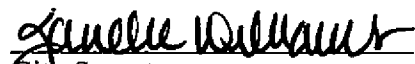
SECTION 4. In accordance with the Texas Disaster Act, this order shall take effect immediately at 10:45 A.M. on March 24, 2020 and shall terminate seven days from the entry of this Order or until further Order of the City.

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


JAMES YARBROUGH
MAYOR, CITY OF GALVESTON



ATTEST:


City Secretary

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


DONALD S. GLYWASKY
CITY ATTORNEY