



**ORDER CLOSING
GUIDED TOURS
OPERATING ON GALVESTON ISLAND
ISSUED BY
THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF GALVESTON**

WHEREAS, the City of Galveston, Texas, has declared a state of emergency in accordance with Tex. Gov't Code Ch. 418 related to the Corona/Covid 19 virus; and

WHEREAS, information issued by the federal Center for Disease Control and the Texas Department of Health Services related to the Corona/Covid 19 virus have stressed undertaking steps to control 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, although the Health District refuses to identify the precise location within the County; 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, the leadership of the City has noted the presence of citizens participating in guided tours which requires them to be in close proximity in contravention of CDC guidelines; and

WHEREAS, the high concentration of citizens participating in such tours presents an opportunity for the transmission of the virus through community spread; 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 guided tours of all kinds is in the best interest of this community; and

WHEREAS, the term guided tours shall be construed as expansively as possible, and shall include guided trips on Segways, bicycles of any kind, horse drawn carriages, motorized conveyances of all kinds, boats whether powered by engine or self paddled or propelled by human power, horses, self guided tours using prerecorded equipment, and any other sight-seeing modality, conducted on public streets and rights of way including public beaches and parks; and

WHEREAS, the implementation of control measures to these activities would not undermine the ability of the private and public sector to deliver essential goods and services to the general population.

NOW THEREFORE, I, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF GALVESTON, HEREBY FIND AND ORDER:

SECTION 1. That 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. That guided tours located in the City of Galveston are ordered to be closed effective as of the signing of this order; it shall be unlawful for the operator of an entertainment venue to remain open to the public.

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. That, in accordance with the Texas Disaster Act, this declaration shall take effect immediately at 1:17 P.M. on March 19, 2020 and shall terminate seven days from the entry of this order or until further Order of the City.

SO DECLARED AND ORDERED at 1:17 pm on this the 20th day of March 2020.

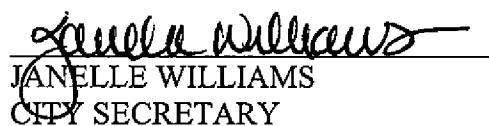
APPROVED AS TO FORM:


DONALD S. GLYWASKY
CITY ATTORNEY


JAMES D. YARBROUGH
MAYOR, CITY OF GALVESTON



ATTEST:


JANELLE WILLIAMS
CITY SECRETARY