

ORDER REQUIRING A MINIMUM PERIOD OF STAY FOR  
RECREATIONAL VEHICLES IN RV PARKS  
OPERATING WITHIN THE CITY OF GALVESTON  
AND PROHIBITING THE PARKING OF  
RECREATIONAL VEHICLES IN ANY  
PUBLIC PARK OR COMMERCIAL PARKING LOT  
IN THE CITY OF GALVESTON 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 and the number of active cases in the County continues to grow; 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;

WHEREAS, we are presently at this time of year designated as spring break during which the number of visitors to the City of Galveston rises dramatically increasing the density of individuals on the island with a concomitant increase of the risk of transmission of the disease; and

WHEREAS, the closure of schools and businesses in numerous areas as a result of control measures undertaken in response to the present public health emergency has also resulted in increased visitation to the City of Galveston increasing the density of individuals on the island with a concomitant increase of the risk of transmission of the disease; and

WHEREAS, the presence of transient recreational vehicles at RV parks and public parks and private commercial lots results in an increased the number of visitors to the City, and the occupants of such vehicles are contained in an enclosed confined space which facilitates the transmission of the virus more easily; 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, the City has taken several control measures to reduce the number of visitors to the City by the entry of Orders and also reduce the risk of community spread of the virus by closing restaurants, bars,

public entertainment venues, and short term rental units, but there has been an increase in the presence of recreational vehicles in the City at various locations, the occupants of which are typically highly mobile and have visited numerous locations with varying degrees of infection by the Corona virus, which frustrates the purpose of the control measures implemented by the City; and

WHEREAS, for the purpose of this Order, the term “recreational vehicle” includes Class A, B and C motor homes, travel trailers and fifth wheels and any other driven or towed vehicle designed for people to live in either on a limited or long-term basis; and

WHEREAS, for the purposes of this Order, the term RV park refers to a location making available to recreational vehicle owners a place to park their RV for a period of time not to exceed sixty days; and

WHEREAS, for the purposes of this Order, the term “public park” shall refer to any place on the Galveston Seawall, any beach access point in the City of Galveston, any parking lot owned by a governmental entity within the City, and any area owned by a public entity used for recreation of any kind; and

WHEREAS, the term “commercial lot” shall refer to a parcel of real property owned by a public or private entity used to park motor vehicles of any kind.

**NOW THEREFORE, I, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF GALVESTON, HEREBY FIND AND ORDER, 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. RV parks located within the City of Galveston are prohibited from allowing an RV to be parked in their facility for a period of less than thirty days; any lease, rental or license to use a parking space in an RV park in the city shall be required to be for a period of thirty-one days or more and be evidenced by a commensurate rent, lease or license charge. The operator of an RV park who enters into an agreement to allow an RV to be parked for a period of less than thirty days shall be in violation of this Order. Each agreement to park an RV shall be deemed a separate offense. Each day of violation shall be deemed to be a separate offense.

SECTION 3. An operator of an RV may not park the RV in a public park for a period in excess of two hours; parking in a public park in excess of two hours shall be a violation of this Order.

SECTION 4. An operator of an RV may not park the RV in a commercial lot for a period in excess of two hours; parking in a commercial lot in excess of two hours shall be a violation of this Order.

SECTION 5. This Order shall not apply to those persons performing essential services as defined in the attached Exhibit A.

SECTION 6. Individuals occupying a space in an RV park in the City of Galveston are ordered to vacate the premises by 10 a.m. on March 28, 2020.

SECTION 7. Any person who shall violate any provision of this ORDER shall be deemed guilty of a Class C misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be fined in a penal sum as allowed by law.

SECTION 8. In accordance with the Texas Disaster Act, this declaration shall take effect at 5:00 p.m.. on March 27, 2020 and shall terminate seven days from the entry of this order or until further Order of the City.

SO DECLARED AND ORDERED at 4:00 pm on this the 27th day of March 2020.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

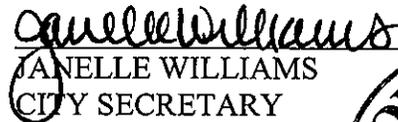


DONALD S. GLYWASKY  
CITY ATTORNEY



JAMES D. YARBROUGH  
MAYOR, CITY OF GALVESTON

ATTEST



JANELLE WILLIAMS  
CITY SECRETARY

