

RESOLUTION 20-114

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF PANAMA CITY BEACH, FLORIDA, PLACING SAFETY STANDARDS FOR THE APPROVAL OF SPECIAL EVENTS; SUPERSEDING RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT THEREWITH; EXTENDING THE CITY'S COVID-19 ACTION PLAN; EXTENDING THE SUSPENSION OF INVOLUNTARY WATER DISCONNECTIONS; PERMITTING THE OPERATION OF LOCAL PUBLIC LIBRARIES SUBJECT TO SAFETY STANDARDS AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATELY EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City of Panama City Beach ("City") is a municipality granted home rule authority pursuant to Article VIII, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Florida and may exercise its governmental, corporate, and proprietary powers for municipal purposes, including to regulate for the protection of the public health, safety, and welfare; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization, U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary, President of the United States, Governor of the State of Florida, and Bay County have all declared the outbreak of the novel coronavirus, COVID-19, to be an international, national, state, and local emergency; and

WHEREAS, since March 17, 2020, the City Council has taken careful and measured action by Resolutions and Emergency Ordinances to balance the public health and safety while also monitoring the need to allow for recreational and commercial activity to safely continue; and

WHEREAS, on May 15, 2020, the Governor of the State of Florida issued Executive Order 20-123 enacting the " Full Phase 1: Safe. Smart. Step-By-Step. Plan for Florida's Recovery" which provides for reopening of amusement parks and sports venues subject to approved safety plans; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that Governor DeSantis's Plan for Florida's Recovery enables Special Events to resume subject to strict safety standards; and

WHEREAS, considering the continuing emergency facing the City and surrounding community, the City Council deems it appropriate and

reasonable to allow special events and parades if health data suggests that under strict safety standards increased chances of COVID-19 infection will be effectively mitigated.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Panama City Beach, Florida as follows:

1. Beginning June 1, 2020, the City may permit Special Events which otherwise comply with all Federal, State, and local regulations and orders provided that the proposed event meets the following standards:
 - a. Industry Safety Standards. Special Events must strictly adhere to the COVID-19 Reopening Guidance, First Edition, dated May 1, 2020 or as amended, issued by the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (“the Industry Guidelines”) attached hereto and incorporated to this Resolution as “Exhibit A.” Each Special Event Application must include a detailed safety plan implementing the most recent Industry Guidelines issued as of the date of the application. The safety plan must be endorsed in writing by the City Fire Chief and Police Chief.
 - b. Health Criteria. Each Special Event must meet the following Health Criteria as confirmed by the City Manager in accordance with this subsection. Health Criteria means:
 - i. Evidence of declining or flattened COVID-19 case growth rate in Bay County as measured by the Florida Department of Health.
 - ii. Evidence that Bay County hospital ICU capacity is adequate to treat all patients without crisis/triage as measured by the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration and determined by the Florida Department of Health.
 - iii. Evidence that Bay County has sufficient supply of personal protective equipment and critical medical equipment to handle a dramatic surge in COVID-19 cases as determined by the Florida Department of Health.
 - iv. A Special Event application may be conditionally approved if the Health Criteria is met at the time of the application’s submittal. Special Event Permits shall be absolutely approved or denied based upon satisfaction of the Health Criteria twenty-four (24) hours prior to the start of the Special Event. No Special Event may be permitted or held if the Health Criteria established by this subsection are not met.

- c. Penalties for Violation. Any Special Event, as defined by Chapter 4 of the City's Code of Ordinances, which is either (a) held in violation of this Resolution or (b) in violation of the approved safety plan required by section (a) of this Resolution shall be immediately suspended until the Special Event is fully compliant with the Special Event Permit and the provisions of this Resolution. An event in violation of this Resolution which cannot meet the Health Criteria or execute the approved safety plan shall be cancelled by order of the City Manager.
2. Section 1 of this Resolution supersedes any conflicting provision in Resolution 20-80E, Resolution 20-103 and the COVID-19 Action Plans adopted therein.
 3. All provisions of the COVID-19 Action Plan adopted pursuant to Resolution 20-103 not otherwise in conflict with this Resolution are hereby extended until July 1st, 2020.
 4. The suspension of involuntary water utility disconnections established by the COVID-19 Action Plan is hereby extended until July 1, 2020.
 5. Pursuant to Executive Order 20-123, Section 1.C, local public libraries within the City's jurisdiction are permitted to operate at up to fifty (50) percent building occupancy and abide by the safety guidelines issued by the CDC and OSHA.

THIS RESOLUTION shall be effective immediately upon passage.

PASSED in regular session this 28th day of May, 2020.

CITY OF PANAMA CITY BEACH

By: 
 Mark Sheldon, Mayor

ATTEST:


 Jo Smith, Interim City Clerk



City of Panama City Beach

May 28, 2020

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Tony O'Rourke, City Manager

RE: COVID-19 Large Event Guidelines, Involuntary Water Shutoffs, Public Libraries

1. On May 14, 2020, the City Council extended its prohibition of large/special events with groups of more than 10.

The following large events are pending this summer in Panama City Beach:

- ✓ Jeep Jam – June 18-20
- ✓ Summer Concert Series – June-August
- ✓ Pepsi Gulf Coast Jam – Labor Day Weekend

In addition to these events, a series of attractions, family entertainment venues and amusement facilities in the City have submitted, per the Governor's Executive Order 20-123, a safety plan to the City and County and been approved to open. They include:

- ✓ Shipwreck Island Water Park
- ✓ Emerald Falls Family Recreation Center
- ✓ Hidden Lagoon Super Racetrack & Golf
- ✓ Just Jump
- ✓ Race City
- ✓ Swampy Jack's Wongo Adventure
- ✓ WonderWorks
- ✓ The SkyWheel
- ✓ Beachfront Adventures

Staff recommends, similar to the Governor's Executive Order 20-123, that large events be permitted to operate subject to submitting a plan to the City consistent with the attached guidelines developed by the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions, and public health officials.

It is important to note that these guidelines will change as best practices, CDC guidelines and guidance from our public health professionals evolve based on the scope and severity of COVID-19.

The attached guidelines should be accepted and operationalized by large events in Panama City Beach until a widely accessible vaccine for COVID-19 is available. The guidelines address the following key mitigation measures:

- General Health and Safety
- Patron Communication
- Patron Responsibility
- Staff/Employee Management
- Physical Distancing
- Face Masks – Employees/Patrons
- Admission/Entry Protocol
- Payments
- Sanitation Operations
- Restrooms
- Facility Operations
- Health Screening
- Queuing Protocols
- Food/Beverage
- Retail/Merchandise

In addition to these important measures, the staff recommends a large event opening plan to include the following criteria:

- ✓ Evidence of declining or flattened COVID-19 case growth rate in Bay County as measured by the Florida Department of Health.
 - ✓ Evidence that Bay County hospital ICU bed capacity is adequate to treat all patients without crisis/triage as determined by the Florida Department of Health.
 - ✓ Sufficient supply of personal protective equipment (PPE) and critical medical equipment to handle a dramatic surge in COVID-19 cases as determined by the Florida Department of Health.
2. On March 17, 2020, the City Council approved the suspension of involuntary water utility shutoffs and late payment charges for 60 days. Given the large number of layoffs caused by COVID-19, coupled by delayed federal and state stimulus and unemployment assistance, staff recommends extending suspension of involuntary water utility shutoffs and late payment charges until July 1, 2020.

To date we have over \$750,000 in delinquent payments. We feel comfortable that we will recover most of these delinquent payments after July 1st by working proactively with our water utility customers. We propose not collecting any late penalty fees on accounts between March 17 and July 1.

3. Per the Governor's Executive Order, public libraries can reopen, but require approval of the local government jurisdiction. Staff recommends the Northwest Regional Library System library on Hutchison Boulevard be permitted to reopen.