

RESOLUTION 20-150

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF PANAMA CITY BEACH, FLORIDA, EXTENDING THE ORDINANCE 1536-E; 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 acknowledged and declared the outbreak of the novel coronavirus, COVID-19, to be an international, national, state, and local emergency; and

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2020, the Governor of the State of Florida issued Executive Order 20-52 authorizing, among other things, local governments to execute their authority under the State Emergency Management Act; 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 June 3, 2020, the Governor of the State of Florida issued Executive Order 20-139 enacting the “Phase 2: Safe. Smart. Step-By-Step. Plan for Florida’s Recovery” which expanded guidelines on safe congregations and recreational activities; and

WHEREAS, the City is home to the world’s most beautiful beaches and serves as one of the nation’s premier tourist destinations to over 4 million visitors per year while also serving as the permanent home for approximately 13,000 residents; and

WHEREAS, since the reopening of the City’s beaches and the enactment of the Phase 2 Reopening, the City has seen an unusually large influx of visitors, and that many of these visitors are exhibiting an attitude of carefreeness and indifference for CDC guidelines regarding social distancing;

WHEREAS, the City has observed that the reopening of the State has led to a corresponding rise in contact between individuals, the potential for increased community spread of COVID-19, and a rise in COVID-19 diagnoses in Bay County; and

WHEREAS, since April 3, the Center for Disease Control (the "CDC") has identified cloth face coverings by the public as an effective mitigation tool against the spread of COVID-19 transmission and provides guidance on how to wear, make, and maintain cloth face coverings;¹ and

WHEREAS, the President of the United States, the Governor of the State of Florida, the State Surgeon General, and the United States Surgeon General along with the CDC support mandatory orders requiring the public to wear face coverings at all times when social distancing is not possible; and

WHEREAS, on July 23, 2020, enacted Ordinance 1536-E requiring businesses, employees, and business customers to take additional measures to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that, based upon the recommendations of the medical community and the rise in COVID-19 cases throughout Bay County, the continued risk of COVID-19 infection necessitates extending Ordinance 1536-E.

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

1. Ordinance 1536-E, related to COVID-19 safety measures, is hereby extended until August 28, 2020, unless such date is extended by Resolution of the City Council.

THIS RESOLUTION shall be effective immediately upon passage.

PASSED in regular session this 13th day of August, 2020.


CITY OF PANAMA CITY BEACH

By: _____

Mark Sheldon, Mayor

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>

ATTEST:



Jo Smith, Interim City Clerk