

EMERGENCY ORDINANCE

WHEREAS, Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a severe acute respiratory illness that can spread among humans through respiratory transmission and other potential methods, and presents symptoms similar to those of influenza;

WHEREAS, in December of 2019, a new and substantial outbreak of COVID-19 emerged in Wuhan, China, and has since spread rapidly to 117 countries and territories throughout the World, including the United States, and more specifically Horry County and numerous other counties in the State of South Carolina;

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID-19 a pandemic;

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is predicting that it is likely that widespread transmission of COVID-19 will also occur in the United States;

WHEREAS, no vaccine or drug is currently available to cure or combat COVID-19;

WHEREAS, the City of North Myrtle Beach is threatened by COVID-19 because of the apparent ability of the virus to spread rapidly among humans, and COVID-19 thereby constitutes a clear and present threat to the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens and visitors of the City of North Myrtle Beach;

WHEREAS, the CDC has issued guidelines for "community mitigation strategies" to limit the spread of COVID-19, including recommendations for social distancing, which has proven to be an effective method for containing COVID-19;

WHEREAS, the City of North Myrtle Beach is working with other government agencies in an effort to prevent the spread of disease;

WHEREAS, Governor Henry McMaster issued an executive order that closed all dine-in services at restaurants and bars beginning on Wednesday, March 18, and limiting all business to to-go/take out services only;

WHEREAS, Section 5-7-250 (d) of the South Carolina Code of Laws empowers Council to enact emergency ordinances affecting life, health, or safety; and

WHEREAS, in light of the foregoing, the City of North Myrtle Beach deems it proper and necessary to adopt this emergency ordinance in order to, among other things: (a) suspend the rental and use of Short-Term Rentals, Hotels, and other Overnight Accommodations for 29 days or less beginning 7 a.m. Friday, March 27, 2020 through

April 30, 2020. Visitors currently checked in may remain until the end of their existing reservations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council of the City of North Myrtle Beach, in Council assembled, that:

1. Rental and use of Short-Term Rentals, including, but not limited to Hotels, Motels, Condo Hotels, Rental Properties, inclusive of private management companies and HOA's, Airbnb, VRBO style lodging, public and private campgrounds and other Overnight Accommodations for 29 days or less beginning 7 a.m. Friday, March 27, 2020 through April 30, 2020 shall be prohibited. Visitors currently checked in may remain until the end of their existing reservations.
2. Exempt: Short-Term Rentals extended to Government, Hospital, Health Agency, Law Enforcement, Military and other Critical Personnel actively responding to COVID-19.
3. Any violation of any rule or regulation issued and set forth herein shall be punishable as provided in the Code of Ordinance for the City of North Myrtle Beach, Chapter 1, Section 1-6, General Penalty.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF NORTH MYRTLE BEACH, ON THE 26th DAY OF March, 2020.



Marilyn Hatley, Mayor

ORDINANCE #: 20-01