Summary: The virus that causes 2019 Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) is easily transmitted through person to person contact, especially in group settings, and it is essential that the spread of the virus be slowed to protect the ability of public and private health care providers to handle the influx of new patients and safeguard public health and safety. As the number of positive cases of COVID-19 continue to increase in the City of Denton, there is an immediate need to undertake the following measures described in this Order. This Order supersedes and replaces the Second Order of the City Council adopted on Monday, April 6, 2020 (Ordinance No. 20-812).


1. This Order pertaining to a Declaration of Local Disaster for Public Health Emergency, originally enacted by the Mayor on March 13, 2020 and extended by Council pursuant to ordinance, supersedes and replaces the prior Orders of the Mayor and of Council. The Order shall take effect at 11:59 p.m. on April 30, 2020 and continue through 11:59 p.m. on May 15, 2020.

2. Effective as of 11:59 p.m. on April 30, 2020:

   a. It is recommended that all individuals currently living within the City of Denton STAY AT HOME or their current place of residence. For the purposes of this Order, residences include hotels, motels, shared rentals, and similar facilities. To the extent individuals are using shared or outdoor spaces, they must at all times as reasonably as possible maintain social distancing of at least six feet from any other person when they are outside their residence.

   b. All businesses operating within the City of Denton shall abide by the regulations set out in Gubernatorial Executive Order GA-18, signed by Governor Abbott on April 27, 2020, as may be further amended. The restrictions and prohibitions of GA-18 are incorporated herein by reference as if set out fully herein. To the greatest extent possible, all essential businesses and reopened services shall comply with the Social Distancing Guidelines promulgated by the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), including maintaining six-foot social distancing for both employees and the general public.

   c. All elective medical, surgical, and dental procedures shall comply with the requirements of Gubernatorial Executive Order GA-19, as may be amended.
3. This Order hereby authorizes the use of all lawfully available enforcement tools found in Denton City Code, Chapter 9 (Emergency Management), state laws and gubernatorial orders, or federal laws.

4. Pursuant to Section 9-22 of the Code of Ordinances, the following measures are also hereby ordered continued as set forth herein:

a. All City Committee, Commission, and Board meetings are suspended through the term of this order, with the following exceptions:
   i. The Planning and Zoning Commission shall meet no more than twice per month and only to consider applications subject to state law-imposed deadlines;
   ii. The Public Utilities Board shall meet no more than twice per month;
   iii. The Civil Service Commission shall meet as needed; and
   iv. Other boards and commissions shall meet only as necessary to consider time-sensitive items critical for the continued operation of the City and provision of services to the public.

b. City Council meetings shall be rescheduled as posted and may be conducted in accordance with alternate measures as permitted by law;

c. Only electronic purchasing submissions shall be accepted;

d. No development applications listed in Table 2.2-A in the Denton Development Code shall be accepted for the term of this Order or any extension hereof;

e. The City Manager or his designee is authorized to make application for local, state, and federal assistance as necessary and/or applicable;

f. The City Manager or his designee is authorized to accept on behalf of the City services, gifts, grants, equipment, supplies, and/or materials whether from private, nonprofit, or government sources;

g. The City Manager or his designee is authorized to terminate or suspend any event that is or may negatively impact the health, safety, and welfare of persons within the City;

h. The City Manager is authorized to approve individual purchases and sign contracts up to $500,000.00 for general expenditures already budgeted or authorized by Section 7(k) of this Order;

i. All City of Denton utility non-payment shut offs are suspended during the term of this Order and no penalties for non-payment of utilities under Ordinances 19-2140, 19-2136, 19-2137, 19-2138, or 18-1494 shall accrue during the pendency of this order or any extension hereof; and

j. The City Manager is given authority to expend those previously budgeted funds of up to $100,000.00 as funding to the United Way of Denton County to assist individuals and
families living in the City of Denton, who have experienced income or job loss directly resulting from COVID-19, in eviction avoidance;

k. The City Manager is authorized to expend no more than Eight Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars ($850,000.00) from the general fund reserve balance during this period to proceed with the necessary emergency responses and essential functions not already budgeted, which includes the previously authorized.

l. The City Manager is authorized to expend no more than the previously authorized Fifty Thousand Dollars ($50,000.00) from the customer service fund reserve balance during this period to increase utility assistance spending for FY 2019-2020 to One Hundred Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars ($175,000.00).

m. All non-essential in-person court proceedings in the Municipal Court No. 1 of the City of Denton are postponed. All such proceedings will be rescheduled following the term of this Order. Court proceedings that may be conducted remotely may be held at their scheduled time, or rescheduled during the term of this Order if such proceeding has already been postponed. No fine, penalty, or punishment shall issue against a party because of the postponement ordered herein. Municipal Court No. 1 shall continue to hear all proceedings deemed essential by the state Office of Court Administration, including search and arrest warrant requests, arraignments, criminal magistration proceedings, and requests for temporary restraining orders.

n. Due to increased demand for household products and groceries resulting from stock up buying and individuals who purchase for resale, retail suppliers shall use common sense rationing of household products and groceries that are in limited supply.

5. Copies of this Order shall be promptly provided to the City Secretary for filing and posting on the City’s website and in other conspicuous places.

IT IS SO ORDERED PURSUANT TO ORDINANCE NO. 20-873

Mayor Chris Watts
City of Denton

CERTIFICATE

I certify that the above Third Order of the Council was posted on the bulletin board at the City Hall of the City of Denton, Texas, on the 1st day of May, 2020 at 11:17 a.m.

Rosa Rios, City Secretary