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Executive Order
Office of the Mayor
City of Atlanta

EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 2020-51
BY THE MAYOR

ORDERING THE MAYOR'S OFFICE OF SPECIAL EVENTS AND THE CITY OF ATLANTA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION TO ACCEPT NO NEW APPLICATIONS FOR PERMITS OR SUB-PERMITS FOR OR RELATING TO EVENTS TO BE HELD IN THE CITY OF ATLANTA GOVERNED BY CHAPTER 142 OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA CODE OF ORDINANCES; AND ORDERING THE ATLANTA POLICE DEPARTMENT TO ACCEPT NO NEW APPLICATIONS FOR SPECIAL EVENTS GOVERNED BY CHAPTER 10, ARTICLE II, DIVISION 3 OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA CODE OF ORDINANCES, IN RECOGNITION OF THE EMERGENT NEED TO EMPLOY SOCIAL DISTANCING MEASURES IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, like much of the world the United States, the State of Georgia, and the City of Atlanta are currently responding to an outbreak of respiratory disease caused by a novel coronavirus named "SARS-CoV-2" and the disease it causes named "coronavirus disease 2019" (abbreviated "COVID-19"); and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020 the World Health Organization declared the COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020 the President of the United States announced a national emergency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, which included two emergency declarations: one under the National Emergencies Act and one under the Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act; and

WHEREAS, on March 14, 2020 Governor Brian Kemp signed a public health state of emergency to address the COVID-19 pandemic through assisting health and emergency management officials across Georgia by deploying all available resources for the mitigation and treatment of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, on March 15, I declared there to be an emergency in existence within the City of Atlanta pursuant to Section 2-181(a) of the City of Atlanta Code of Ordinances; and

WHEREAS, the Center for Disease Control ("CDC") has issued guidance on the emerging and rapidly evolving situation of the COVID-19 pandemic, including how to protect oneself from this illness; and

WHEREAS, social distancing is recommended by the CDC to prevent the continued spreading of this illness in the community; and

WHEREAS, as on March 16, 2020, the CDC advised that during the next fifteen (15) days, all events in the United States of ten (10) or more people should be cancelled or held virtually; and

WHEREAS, on March 22, 2020 twenty-four (24) infectious disease clinicians in Georgia signed onto an opinion that it is in their belief that there is little time to "flatten the curve" of the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, these clinicians advised that at least one model suggests that "the point of no return" for Georgia is estimated to begin on March 24, 2020 and that after that date, every day of delay before restrictive measures, such as those put in place by California, New York, and Illinois, are taken will lead to an earlier and higher peak of infected Georgians that will completely overwhelm our hospital systems; and

WHEREAS, the City of Atlanta issues permits in accordance with Chapter 142 of the City of Atlanta Code of Ordinances, (the Outdoor Events Chapter), for certain outdoor gatherings located within the city, regardless of whether the gathering is held on public property or private property; and

WHEREAS, the Outdoor Events Chapter does not apply to events that are being held exclusively indoors; and

WHEREAS, the City of Atlanta permits the sale of alcoholic beverages for special events by an individual or organization for consumption on the premises during special events and outdoor festivals through the issuance of permits in accordance with Chapter 10, Article II, Division 3 of the City of Atlanta Code of Ordinances, (the Special Permits Division of the Alcohol Code); and

WHEREAS, it is my desire to take whatever lawful action available to encourage persons in the City of Atlanta to engage in the recommended social distancing to slow the spread of COVID-19 during this crisis; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 2-182 of the City of Atlanta Code of Ordinances, I may issue an executive order which applies to events of short duration and which expires at the next meeting of the Atlanta City Council subsequent thereof unless ratified by a majority vote of the members present and voting; and

WHEREAS, accordingly, in recognition of the emergent need to employ social distancing measures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, I am hereby ordering the Mayor's office of Special Events and the City of Atlanta Department of Parks and Recreation to accept no new applications for permits or sub-permits for or relating to events to be held in the City of Atlanta governed by Chapter 142 of the City of Atlanta Code of Ordinances; and

WHEREAS, additionally, I am hereby ordering the Atlanta Police Department to accept no new applications for special events governed by Chapter 10, Article II, Division 3 of the City of Atlanta Code of Ordinances.

NOW THEREFORE, I, KEISHA LANCE BOTTOMS, AS MAYOR OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA, HEREBY AUTHORIZE, ORDER AND DIRECT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1: As of the date of the execution of this order, the Director of the Mayor's Office of Special Events and the Commissioner of the Department of Parks and Recreation are hereby authorized, ordered and directed to refuse to accept new applications for permits or sub-permits, for or relating to events to be held in the City of Atlanta, governed by Chapter 142 of the City of Atlanta Code of Ordinances.

SECTION 2: As of the date of the execution of this order, the Chief of the Atlanta Police Department is hereby authorized, ordered and directed to refuse to accept new applications for special events governed by Chapter 10, Article II, Division 3 of the City of Atlanta Code of Ordinances.

This 23rd day of April 2020.

Keisha Lance Bottoms, Mayor

ATTESTED:

Municipal Clerk

Foris Webb, III
Municipal Clerk