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2020 MAY 10 PM 9:17

Administrative Order No. 2020- 12

An Administrative Order
Office of the Mayor
City of Atlanta

**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
AN ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER**

AN ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER DIRECTING THE INTERIM COMMISSIONER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF WATERSHED MANAGEMENT TO REFRAIN FROM TAKING ANY ACTION WHICH WOULD RESULT IN THE TERMINATION OF WATER SERVICES TO ANY WATERSHED MANAGEMENT CUSTOMER, DUE TO NON-PAYMENT, FROM THE DATE OF EXECUTION OF THIS ORDER THROUGH JUNE 30, 2020.

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 was recommended by the CDC to prevent the continued spreading of this illness in the community; 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, on March 23, 2020 I declared there to be the existence of an emergency within the City of Atlanta and issued a Stay at Home Order under my emergency powers and which I have reissued in accordance with Section 2-181 of the City of Atlanta Code of Ordinances no more than every 72 hours thereafter; and

WHEREAS, on April 2, 2020, Governor Brian Kemp signed an Executive Order to Ensure a Safe and Healthy Georgia (Governor’s Executive Order 04.02.20.01) to address the COVID-19 pandemic by implementing temporary actions necessary and appropriate to protect the health, safety, and welfare of Georgia’s residents and visitors, effective beginning at 6:00 P.M. on Friday, April 3, 2020 and expiring at 11:59 P.M. on Monday, April 13, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on April 8, 2020 Governor Kemp signed an Executive Order 04.08.20.02 extending the Governor’s Executive Order 04.02.20.01, such that it expired on Thursday April 30, 2020 at 11:59 P.M.; and

WHEREAS, on April 23, 2020 Governor Kemp signed an Executive Order 04.23.20.02 which, effective May 1, 2020, lifted the shelter in place order for most residents and visitors of the State of Georgia, including the City of Atlanta, leaving it in place only for persons who are considered at higher risk for severe illness resulting from a COVID-19 infection, and requiring businesses to operate pursuant to certain COVID-19 mitigation operational measures; and

WHEREAS, the Governor’s Executive Order 04.23.20.02 is scheduled to remain effective through May 13, 2020; and

WHEREAS, as a result of these emergency orders, the economy of the City of Atlanta has been largely shuttered; and

WHEREAS, through its Department of Watershed Management, the City of Atlanta provides customers with reliable, high quality water services while protecting and enhancing public health; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic many customers of the Department of Watershed Management may be suffering considerable financial hardships; and

WHEREAS, to help mitigate the negative impacts on those who may suffer considerable financial hardships as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, on March 11, 2020 I issued Administrative Order 2020-03 by which I directed the Commissioner of the Department of Watershed Management to refrain from taking any action which would result in the termination of water services to any Watershed Management customer, due to non-payment, for sixty (60) days; and

WHEREAS, Administrative Order 2020-03 is scheduled to expire on May 10, 2020; and

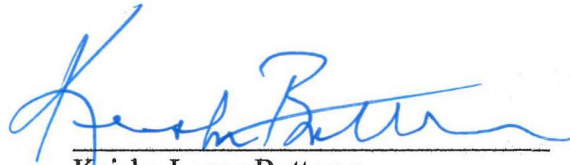
WHEREAS, due to the persistence of the COVID-19 pandemic crisis, there remains a critical need to assist the mitigation of the considerable financial hardships resulting therefrom; and

WHEREAS, accordingly, I am hereby directing the Interim Commissioner of the Department of Watershed Management to refrain from taking any action which would result in the termination of water services to any Watershed Management customer, due to non-payment, from the date of execution of this order through June 30, 2020.

NOW, THEREFORE, BY THE POWER VESTED IN ME AS MAYOR OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA, pursuant to Section 3-104 of the City of Atlanta Charter and Section 2-182(4) of the City of Atlanta Code of Ordinances, it is hereby ordered as follows:

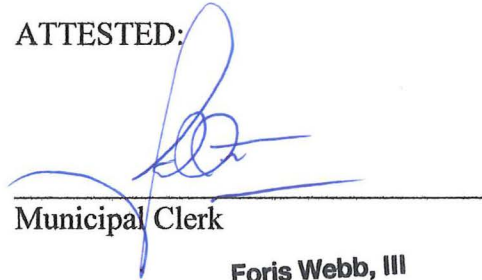
The Interim Commissioner of the Department of Watershed Management shall refrain from taking any action which would result in the termination of water services to any Watershed Management customer, due to non-payment, from the date of execution of this order through June 30, 2020.

SO ORDERED, this 10th day of May 2020.



Keisha Lance Bottoms
Mayor

ATTESTED:



Municipal Clerk

Foris Webb, III
Municipal Clerk