

**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
AN ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER**

AN ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER DIRECTING 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 RESIDENTIAL WATERSHED MANAGEMENT CUSTOMER, DUE TO NON-PAYMENT, FROM THE DATE OF EXECUTION OF THIS ORDER THROUGH APRIL 30, 2021; AUTHORIZING THE COMMISSIONER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF WATERSHED MANAGEMENT TO TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION REGARDING COMMERCIAL CUSTOMERS WHOSE ACCOUNTS ARE DELINQUENT, WHO FAILED TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT FOR INSTALLMENT PAYMENT SCHEDULES, OR WHO FAIL TO ABIDE BY THE TERMS OF SUCH AGREEMENTS; AND FOR OTHER RELATED 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 16, 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, 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; and

WHEREAS, subsequently, Governor Kemp has issued a series of Executive Orders which amend and revise the temporary action necessary and appropriate to protect the health, safety, and welfare of Georgia’s residents and visitors; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the economy of the City of Atlanta has been severely impacted; 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; and

WHEREAS, due to the persistence of the COVID-19 pandemic crisis, I have issued renewals of this Administrative Order which extended this moratorium, such that it shall remain in effect as applied to any residential Watershed Management customer through March 31, 2021; and

WHEREAS, due to the persistence of the COVID-19 pandemic crisis, and the continued critical need to assist the mitigation of the considerable financial hardships resulting therefrom, I am hereby directing 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 residential Watershed Management customer, due to non-payment, from the date of execution of this order through April 30, 2021; and

WHEREAS, Section 154-120(6) of the City of Atlanta Code of Ordinances authorizes the Commissioner of the Department of Watershed Management to authorize agreements with persons responsible for the payment of water services, for installment payment schedules under certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, through the issuance of previous Administrative Orders concerning water services during the COVID-19 pandemic, I have directed the Commissioner of the Department of Watershed Management to establish a procedure by which the City of Atlanta would enter into agreements with commercial customers responsible for the payment of water services, whose accounts are delinquent, for installment payment schedules, in order to alleviate the commercial customers' financial burden related to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, these orders required all such agreements to be entered into by no later than March 31, 2021 and provided that a failure of a delinquent commercial Department of Watershed Management customer to enter into an agreement authorized hereby by March 31, 2021, and or the failure of a commercial customer to abide by the terms of such an agreement may result in the termination of water services and/or any other penalty authorized by the City of Atlanta Code of Ordinances; and

WHEREAS, at this time, the Commissioner of the Department of Watershed Management shall be hereby authorized to take appropriate action, including the termination of water services and/or the imposition of any other penalty authorized by the City of Atlanta Code of Ordinances,

against commercial customers whose accounts are delinquent, who failed to enter into an agreement for installment payment schedules by March 31, 2021, or who fail to abide by the terms of such agreements.

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:

SECTION 1: The Commissioner of the Department of Watershed Management shall refrain from taking any action which would result in the termination of water services to any residential Watershed Management customer, due to non-payment, from the date of execution of this order through April 30, 2021.

SECTION 2: The Commissioner of the Department of Watershed Management is hereby authorized to take appropriate action, including the termination of water services and/or the imposition of any other penalty authorized by the City of Atlanta Code of Ordinances, against commercial customers whose accounts are delinquent, who failed to enter into an agreement for installment payment schedules by March 31, 2021, or who fail to abide by the terms of such agreements.

SO ORDERED, this 31st day of March, 2021.



Keisha Lance Bottoms, Mayor

ATTESTED:



Municipal Clerk

Foris Webb, III
Municipal Clerk

For 3/31/21

