

EMERGENCY EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 2020-4

March 30, 2020

To: All Elected Officials, Department Heads, Division Chiefs, Independent Agencies, Authorities, Boards, Commissions, and Councils

From: Lenny Curry, Mayor

Subject: Hotel, Motel and Public Lodging Reservation Restrictions

Pursuant to Section 674.206, Jacksonville Ordinance Code, on March 13, 2020, I issued Emergency Proclamation 2020-001, which proclaimed and declared a public emergency in the City of Jacksonville concerning the threat to the City's citizens, resources and general welfare posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Once this emergency was declared, Section 674.206, Jacksonville Ordinance Code, grants me the authority to issue such executive orders, proclamations and regulations as I deem reasonable and necessary to fulfill my solemn responsibility to protect the City from this emergency threat. During the term of this emergency period, these emergency executive orders, proclamations and regulations have the full force and effect of law.

The U.S. Center for Disease Control (CDC) continues to provide guidance to reduce introduction of the COVID-19 virus into new communities and to slow the spread of infection in communities already affected by the virus. Because this virus is spread by close social contact, including among individuals who are currently asymptomatic, the Governor and I and thousands of public officials have issued orders to assist in limiting the spread of the virus.

I have restricted certain businesses and prohibited certain gatherings to slow the spread of this disease and protect the Duval County healthcare system. I have repeatedly encouraged the City's residents to responsibly practice appropriate social distancing and other health-conscious actions. I have also encouraged residents to limit non-essential, public outings and appearances.

Unfortunately, other locations outside the City have not been as proactive or as vigilant in enforcing the CDC's guidance and maintaining proper social distancing and engaging in non-essential travel. Numerous persons have congregated in the state for spring break, cruises and other personal travel, thereby potentially endangering the residents of the City by serving as virus transmission vectors from around the country.

Additionally, availability of hotels, motels and other places of public accommodations are needed for shelter or housing options for healthcare professionals, first responders, national guard members, law enforcement, state or federal government employees, airline crewmembers, other essential personnel, patients, patients' families,

journalists and others responding to the COVID-19 emergency, or displaced residents or visitors, persons unable to return to their homes due to exigent circumstances, persons utilizing public lodging as transitional housing or living arrangements, persons sheltering in public lodging due to domestic violence or other safety concerns, hotel employees, service providers and contractors or individuals who, for any reason, are temporarily unable to reside in their home. Further, many Duval County residents rely on hotels, motels and public lodging establishments for weekly and monthly long-term living arrangements and the closure of commercial lodging establishments would negatively affect their living arrangements.

THEREFORE, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor by the Charter and Ordinance Code and as Chief Executive and Administrative Officer of the Consolidated Government, it is ordered:


To aid the availability of hotel rooms for (1) healthcare professionals, (2) first responders, (3) National Guard members, (4) law enforcement, (5) state or federal government employees, (6) airline crewmembers, (7) patients, (8) patients' families, (9) journalists, (10) others responding to COVID-19, (11) displaced residents or visitors, (12) persons unable to return their home due to COVID-19 impacts on travel, (13) persons who must vacate their homes due to exigent circumstances, such as fire or flood, (14) persons utilizing hotels as transitional living arrangements, (15) persons sheltering in hotels due to domestic violence, (16) hotel employees, service providers, and contractors, or (17) individuals who, for any reason, are temporarily unable to reside in their home ("Essential Lodgers"), the following restrictions shall apply to commercial lodging establishments:

- (a) Hotels, motels, and other commercial lodging establishments shall not accept new reservations for persons other than Essential Lodgers for stays at such establishment for the period of time during which the COVID-19 emergency proclamation remains in effect.
- (b) Hotels, motels, and other commercial lodging establishments may accept reservations for new Essential Lodgers.
- (c) This order does not apply to the rental of vacation rental properties, as defined in Section 509.242(1)(c), Florida Statutes, as such establishments are and continue to be governed by State of Florida Governor Executive Order 20-87, and any extensions or amendments thereto.
- (d) During the effective period of this Emergency Order, public lodging establishments shall not accept any occupants other than Essential Lodgers, regardless of when reservations were made, nor shall they extend existing reservations for any person other than Essential Lodgers.

This order shall expire upon the expiration of the existing Emergency Proclamation, except that if the emergency is extended, this order shall also be deemed to extend for the duration of such extension. This order may be cancelled earlier by action of the either the City Council or the Mayor.


Approved and issued:




Lenny Curry, Mayor

Approved as to form:

Approval Date: March 30, 2020


Jason Gabriel, General Counsel

Effective Date: March 31, 2020
5:00 P.M.

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