



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 18, 2020

**City of Camden to Impose Curfew in Response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19)**

**Camden, SC** – City of Camden Mayor Alfred Mae Drakeford has declared a state of public emergency related to the spread of COVID-19 in the City and is proclaiming a citywide curfew from 10:00 pm to 5:00 am, effective Thursday, March 19, 2020.

Mayor Drakeford said the curfew will include exceptions for police officers, firefighters, emergency services personnel, doctors, nurses, health-care providers, persons traveling to or from work, and those with life-threatening conditions who require medical assistance.

Due to concerns over communal spread of COVID-19 within the workplace, the City of Camden also strongly requests that employees for all businesses, as applicable, transition to a remote work model, or work from home, and that no social gatherings be held anywhere in the City until further notice.

As mentioned in a previous news release, the City of Camden has closed all its facilities, excluding City Hall and the Camden Police Department headquarters, to the public until further notice.

Public access to City Hall will be restricted to the south entrance, nearest the Finance Department. All other entrances to City Hall will be locked. All City business with the clerk's office, court, and building department can be handled at the Finance Department. Residents are encouraged to call City Hall at 803-432-2421 prior to visiting, to see if staff can assist you over the phone.

The City of Camden utility and sanitation operations will be maintained and serviced as normal, however contact with the public will be restricted. The City will suspend the normal disconnect for non-pay procedures until further notice. Residents are encouraged to use the City's online bill pay for existing utility bills, as well as the drive-thru window and drop boxes in the parking entrance and just outside the Finance Department entrance at City Hall, where payments will be accepted 24 hours a day. The Finance Department will also accept payments by check over the phone until further notice.

Public access to the Police Department will be restricted to the front lobby. Fingerprinting services have been suspended until further notice.

The Camden Fire Department will suspend nonessential services and programs until further notice. Residents with specific needs or concerns may call the Fire Department at 803-425-6040.

Municipal court has been suspended through April 1<sup>st</sup>. Preliminary court hearings for March 26<sup>th</sup> have also been canceled. Essential functions will be carried out, however roll call and traffic court appearances have been canceled. Conditions are being monitored to determine the schedule for future cases.

City staff will continue to monitor the COVID-19 virus and make operational decisions as necessary. The Kershaw County government has activated a COVID-19 hotline. The public is



encouraged to call the COVID-19 hotline at 803-425-7242 and monitor information and updates at SC DHEC's website [www.scdhec.gov/covid19](http://www.scdhec.gov/covid19) or the Kershaw County website [www.kershaw.sc.gov/coronavirus](http://www.kershaw.sc.gov/coronavirus). If you are experiencing symptoms or have a concern for your health or risk level, you are encouraged to call your physician or medical facility before leaving your home.

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## PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020, Governor Henry McMaster issued Executive Order No. 2020-08 related to 2019 Novel Coronavirus (“COVID-19”) and declared that a State of Emergency exists in South Carolina;

**WHEREAS**, the City of Camden, South Carolina (the “City”) is also compelled to declare a state of public emergency related to COVID-19.

**WHEREAS**, Section 91.01 of the City’s Code of Ordinances (the “Code”) provides that “[a] state of public emergency shall be deemed to exist whenever during times, existing or threatening, of great public crisis, rioting, civil disturbance, or disorder, or for any reason of natural or manmade disaster or catastrophe, municipal public safety authorities are unable to maintain public order or afford adequate protection for lives, safety, health, welfare, or property”;

**WHEREAS**, there is growing evidence of community spread of COVID-19 in the City and Kershaw County, South Carolina and such spread or threat of spread conforms to and meets the definition for a “State of Public Emergency” as described above;

**WHEREAS**, Section 91.02 of the Code permits the Mayor of the City to issue a public proclamation declaring to all persons the existence of a state of public emergency and to impose a curfew applicable to all persons within the jurisdiction of the City; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor is further authorized and empowered by Section 91.02 to “limit the application of the curfew to any area specifically designated and described within the jurisdiction of the city and to specify hours or the day or night” wherein the curfew should be applicable.

**NOW THEREFORE**, I, Alfred Mae Drakeford, Mayor of the City of Camden, on the basis of the foregoing findings, do hereby proclaim as follows:

1. I declare a state of public emergency in the City due to COVID-19;
2. Due to the communal nature and virulent person to person spread of COVID-19, a curfew shall be put into effect Thursday, March 19, 2020 in the City; such curfew shall be applicable for between the hours of 10:00 p.m. until 5:00 a.m.

and shall apply City-wide. The following persons shall be exempted from the curfew: police officers, firefighters, doctors, nurses, emergency services personnel, health-care providers, persons traveling to or from work, as required by their employer, and persons, or person's assisting persons, with life-threatening conditions and any persons designated as essential by the City;

3. All City-owned facilities shall be closed for public-access. Reasonable accommodations shall be made in order to permit the continuation of the City's business via online service and limited physical interaction as necessary for the City to continue conducting its business and processing and collecting all fees, charges, taxes, utility bills and other amounts due and owing to the City;
4. Due to concerns over communal spread of COVID-19 within the workplace, it is strongly requested that (i) all employees, as applicable, for all businesses transition to remote, or work from home, work-model, and (ii) no social gatherings be held anywhere in the City;
5. The declared state of public emergency and the accompanying curfew shall exist until this proclamation is lifted or revised or subsequent action is taken by City Council of the City of Camden, as the governing body of the City; and
6. A meeting of City Council of the City of Camden, as the governing body of the City, shall be convened within twenty-four hours of this proclamation to ratify, confirm and potentially expand the authorizations herein.

DONE AND PROCLAIMED, this 13 day of March, 2020.

Attest:

  
Brenda Davis, City Clerk

CITY OF CAMDEN, SOUTH  
CAROLINA

  
Alfred Mae Drakeford, Mayor