



STATEMENT FROM THE CITY OF TEMPLE CONCERNING THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

Following is a statement concerning the Coronavirus pandemic, being issued by the City of Temple's Mayor and members of the City Council: Mayor Michael Johnson, Mayor Pro Tem Richard Bracknell, Councilmember Howard Walden, Councilmember Terron Bivins, Councilmember Tom Wallace, and Councilmember Hiley Miller.

We and other residents, employers, and employees in the City of Temple have become increasingly concerned as we have seen the spread of the COVID – 19 into the southeast, and then into Georgia, and now into our part of the State. We have listened to reports from Governor Kemp and the Federal government. And based on that information, we in City government did the same as most of you: We have tried to be more cautious, including closing the Recreation Department, shutting down the Senior Center for any group activities with this elderly at-risk population, and closing the City Hall lobby area.

At the same time, we have maintained our Police Department services. The Public Works Department staff has continued to work, as has the staff at the Sewer Treatment Plant. The same is true for various staff members at City Hall, the Rec Department, and the Senior Center. We have taken steps to make sure our participating senior citizens have been able to continue to receive a nourishing lunch Monday through Friday; and this program is now operating with the usual home delivered meals to the homebound and drive-thru service at the Senior Center for eligible seniors.

We certainly appreciate the services of all of our employees during this time of crisis, especially our police officers who now are facing a new unseen danger as they deal on the front line with public safety issues.

WE MUST MAKE CHANGES FROM OUR OLD WAY OF DOING CERTAIN THINGS. We would ask that you please read this carefully and then make a pledge to make some important temporary changes in your lifestyle. It could be a life-saving decision for you and for some of your loved ones.

The Carroll County Board of Health has the duty and responsibility of addressing and dealing with health issues in Carroll County. And first and foremost, the COVID – 19 crisis is a health and safety issue. On Sunday, March 22, the Board of Health adopted an Order which is applicable to all of Carroll County. -- We the elected officials of the City of Temple recognize the right and duty of the County Board of Health to issue an Order to try to protect the health of our citizens, and we are committed to making sure in the City of Temple that this order is implemented.

This Order issued on Sunday, March 22, is “to declare a local State of Emergency related to COVID – 19, to impose social distancing requirements, to prohibit public and private gatherings of more than 10 people, and for other purposes.”

(The full text of this order has been placed on the City of Temple’s web site for you to read.)

In paragraph 5 of this order it is stated that “all bars, restaurants, or businesses who sell food or beverages for consumption on premises or who provide entertainment on premises shall be closed to in-person dining, consumption of alcohol, or entertainment until the expiration of this resolution.” They may “offer food for take-away or for customers to eat somewhere other than at the establishment.”

We have taken action to make sure this directive is being followed in Temple.

Paragraph 2 says, in part, that “the intent of this Order is to ensure that the maximum number of people self-isolate in their places of residence to the maximum extent feasible, thus enabling essential services to continue...” This paragraph also says that when someone needs to leave his/her residence, social distancing of at least six feet should be complied with.

The Order recognizes that people will need to go to certain places in order to provide for their continuing needs. This includes grocery stores, convenience stores, gas stations, hardware stores, department stores, building supply stores, various health care facilities and offices, and certain government and other essential services offices. In all cases, social distancing should be adhered to.

A FINAL WORD OF CAUTION AND ENCOURAGEMENT. We ask that all of the residents, workers, businesses, and young people here in Temple abide by the Board of Health’s very reasonable orders. It could keep you from becoming infected with the virus and could even save your life and/or the life of a loved one. We must make these temporary changes in our way of living, so we can keep on living.

We are not establishing an overnight curfew at this time in Temple. We know some places have felt the need to do this. And should we have a problem in this area, action will be considered. But we do ask at this time for all our residents to stay home as much as possible.

Do not go to work, to the store, or anywhere else (other than as necessary to a health care facility) if you are feeling sick...and especially if you are having any symptoms of the Coronavirus.

This is a tough, tough time. We are all concerned. We know a lot of fears have been felt and a lot of tears have been shed. And during the dark period we are in at this time, hold on to each other and to our faith. Remember this word from the Bible, speaking of what happens after the distresses and sorrows of the night: “Rejoicing comes in the morning!” We look forward to America, to Georgia, to Carroll County, and to Temple overcoming this virus, with better days and rejoicing ahead for us.

Mayor Michael Johnson

Mayor Pro Tem Richard Bracknell

Councilmember Howard Walden

Councilmember Terron Bivins

Councilmember Hiley Miller

Councilmember Tom Wallace