



# City of Austin

**Steve Adler, Mayor**

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RECEIVED  
MAR 10 2020  
CITY CLERK

## ORDER

On March 6, 2020, a Declaration of Local Disaster was issued to allow the City of Austin to take measures to reduce the possibility of exposure to COVID-19 and promote the health and safety of Austin residents.

Due to unique characteristics and risks associated with the South by Southwest Conference and Festival (SXSW), such as transmission dynamics for the variety of venues, the likely spread of the disease based on factors of social distancing, the clinical severity of COVID-19, the lack of vaccine or antivirals as treatment options, the crowd density at each venue, the inability to ensure social distancing and to prevent close contact among attendees, the added impact of non-registrants that participate in various events and their unknown health and previous exposure to COVID-19, the number of registrants and unknown attendees coming from affected countries and states, and the duration and mode of travel of attendees during this festival, and pursuant to my authority under Texas Government Code Chapter 418 and Austin City Code Section 2-6-23 (Emergency Management for Local Disaster), I, Mayor of the City of Austin, hereby issue this order:

**South by Southwest Conference and Festival (SXSW) organizers are prohibited from holding their annual conference, festival, and exhibition in the City of Austin.**

**ORDERED** this the 6th day of March, 2020, in the City of Austin, Travis County, Texas, in witness whereof I subscribe my name and cause to be affixed the seal of the City of Austin.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor, City of Austin

Filed with me, the City Clerk of the City of Austin, this 6 day of March, 2020, by Mayor Steve Adler, whose signature I hereby attest under my hand and the seal of the City of Austin.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk



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MAR 6 '20 PM 4:06

## BE IT KNOWN:

**WHEREAS**, in December 2019, a novel coronavirus, now designated COVID-19, was detected in Wuhan, China; and

**WHEREAS**, symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, cough, and shortness of breath, and can range from mild to severe illness; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization Director General declared the outbreak of COVID-19, as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern, advising countries to prepare for the containment, detection, isolation and case management, contact tracing and prevention of onward spread of the disease; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 5, 2020, the World Health Organization Director General urged aggressive preparedness and activation of emergency plans to aggressively change the trajectory of this epidemic; and

**WHEREAS**, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention is closely monitoring the growing number of COVID-19 cases that have spread into the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, over 250 cases of COVID-19 have been reported in the United States, including 14 deaths; and

**WHEREAS**, Spring Festival is the period from early to mid-March with a high concentration of events in and around downtown Austin; and

**WHEREAS**, a large gathering of unidentifiable individuals without necessary mitigation for the spread of infection may pose a risk of the spread of infectious disease; and

**WHEREAS**, South by Southwest (SXSW) is the largest event held during the Spring Festival period, attended by visitors from all over the United States and around the world; and

**WHEREAS**, the COVID-19 virus spreads between people who are in close contact with one another through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes; and

**WHEREAS**, the continued worldwide spread of COVID-19 presents an imminent threat of widespread illness, which requires emergency action; and

**WHEREAS**, a declaration of local disaster includes the ability to take measures to reduce the possibility of exposure to disease, control the risk, and promote the health and safety of Austin residents; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Austin will work collaboratively with Travis County to ensure that all appropriate and necessary measures are taken to limit the development, contraction and spread of COVID-19.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED:**

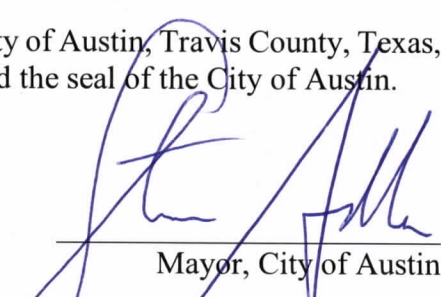
By virtue of the authority vested in me by the City Charter, as the presiding officer of the governing body and under Texas Government Code, Section 418.108, **I DECLARE** a local state of disaster within the City of Austin to continue for a period of **7 days** from this date, subject to continuation or renewal by consent of the City Council.

The City of Austin Emergency Operations Plan is activated, and all other Charter, statutory, and ordinance powers vested in me and all officers of the City of Austin to act in this local state of disaster are activated. This declaration activates the recovery and rehabilitation aspects of all applicable local or interjurisdictional emergency management plans and authorizes the furnishing of all aid and assistance as deemed necessary or desirable by those administering such plans.

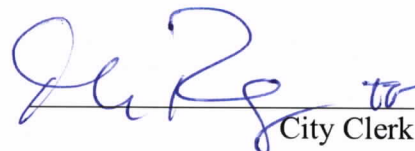
Pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 122.006, the City may adopt rules to protect the health of persons in the City, and provide for the establishment of quarantine stations, emergency hospitals, and other hospitals.

The City Clerk is directed to give prompt and general publicity of the issuance of this DECLARATION.

**DECLARED** this the 6th day of March, 2020, in the City of Austin, Travis County, Texas, in witness whereof I subscribe my name and cause to be affixed the seal of the City of Austin.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor, City of Austin

Filed with me, the City Clerk of the City of Austin, this 6 day of March, 2020, by Mayor Steve Adler, whose signature I hereby attest under my hand and the seal of the City of Austin.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk