

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF GASTON**

**PROCLAMATION OF A
STATE OF EMERGENCY**

The following Proclamation is issued by the Chairman of the Gaston County Board of Commissioners:

WHEREAS, the coronavirus ("COVID-19") is a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which is a new strain of coronavirus previously unidentified in humans and which can spread from person to person;

WHEREAS, in response to the global spread of the virus and the disease it causes, the World Health Organization has declared COVID-19 a Public Health Emergency of International Concern; the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") has warned of the high public health threat posed by COVID-19 globally and in the United States and has deemed it necessary to prohibit or restrict travel to areas designated by the CDC; the United States Department of Health and Human Services Secretary declared a public health emergency in the United States for COVID-19; and the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services ("NCDHHS") confirmed multiple cases of COVID-19 in North Carolina as of March 10, 2020;

WHEREAS, Governor Roy Cooper by Executive Order No. 116, declared a State of Emergency for the State of North Carolina on March 10, 2020 that addresses response and protective actions to prevent the spread of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, in consultation with health care professionals and based upon guidance from CDC and NCDHHS, arrangements must be made immediately to take such actions as are deemed necessary and appropriate to ensure that COVID-19 remains controlled and that residents and visitors in Gaston County remain safe and secure.

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority contained in Article 1A of N.C.G.S. § Chapter 166A, Article 36A of N.C.G.S. § Chapter 14, and Chapter 5 of the Gaston County Ordinances, I, Chairman Tracy Philbeck of the Gaston County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim that a State of Emergency exists within Gaston County.

I further proclaim by and with the consent of the mayors of the municipalities within Gaston County, this Declaration of State of Emergency applies within the municipal limits of the following municipal governments:

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|---------------------|---|
| Town of Stanley | City of Belmont |
| Town of Ranlo | City of Mount Holly |
| Town of Dallas | City of Lowell |
| Town of High Shoals | City of Cherryville |
| Town of Cramerton | City of Gastonia |
| Town of McAdenville | City of Bessemer City |
| | City of Kings Mountain (within Gaston County) |

I further proclaim that the directions set forth below, which are authorized by Gaston County Code of Ordinances, and the Gaston County Health Director are necessary in order to maintain an acceptable level of public order, services, and protection of lives, safety and property during this emergency, and that the same shall be in effect within Gaston County until this Proclamation expires or is rescinded by the Gaston County Board of Commissioners. I hereby order all county employees and all other emergency management personnel subject to the authority granted to me as the Chairman of the Gaston County Board of Commissioners to cooperate in the enforcement and implementation of the emergency ordinances.

- A. Excessive Price Prohibitions: It is hereby unlawful to sell or rent or offer to sell or rent any goods or services which are consumed or used as a direct result of an emergency or which are consumed or used to preserve, protect, or sustain life, health, safety, or economic well-being of persons or property with the knowledge and intent to charge a price that is unreasonably excessive under the circumstances or engage in any price gouging practices as defined by General Statutes.
- B. Restricted Access: The Gaston County Health Director has the authority to designate areas within which travel may be restricted except by those in search of medical assistance, food or other commodity or service necessary to sustain the well-being of themselves or family members.
- C. The Public Health Director may restrict any other activities or conditions the control of which may be reasonably necessary to maintain order and protect lives or property during the State of Emergency.
- D. The gathering of persons in groups of 50 or more in entertainment venues, county and municipal parks, or any other places of public assembly is restricted. Health care facilities, schools, government offices, business operations and day cares are exempted from restrictions.

I further proclaim that the Emergency Management Plan adopted by Gaston County, and all applicable mutual assistance compacts and agreements are in effect and shall remain in effect until this proclamation expires or is rescinded by the Gaston County Board of Commissioners. All Emergency Management, Health and Medical Services personnel are hereby ordered to cooperate in the implementation of the provisions of the Gaston County's Emergency Operations Plan and all applicable mutual assistance compacts and agreements, and to furnish assistance thereunder.

I direct that copies of this Proclamation be disseminated to municipalities and mass communications media for publication and broadcast, and that a copy of this Proclamation be posted in the County Manager's Office, on the Gaston County website and other public buildings as appropriate.

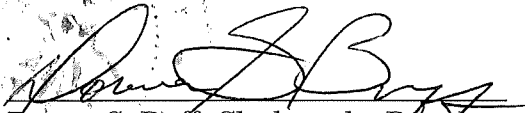
This Proclamation shall be effective as of 12 p.m. (p.m.) on March 15, 2020 and shall remain in effect until rescinded pursuant to the Gaston County Code of Ordinances and North Carolina General Statutes.



Tracy Philbeck, Chairman
Gaston County Board of Commissioners



ATTEST:



Donna S. Buff, Clerk to the Board
Gaston County Board of Commissioners