LOCAL EMERGENCY DIRECTIVE

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 very mild (including some with no reported symptoms) to severe, including illness resulting in death; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization characterized COVID-19 as a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the Governor of the State of Texas declared a state of disaster, the President of the United States of America declared a national emergency, and the Mayor of the City of El Paso declared a local state of disaster in relation to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the President’s Coronavirus Guidelines for America, as promulgated by President Donald J. Trump and the CDC on March 16, 2020, called upon Americans to slow the spread of COVID-19 by avoiding social gatherings in groups of more than 10 people, using drive-thru, pickup, or delivery options at restaurants and bars, and avoiding visitation at nursing homes, among other steps; and

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2020, the City Council of El Paso adopted an Emergency Ordinance extending the City’s state of disaster and instituting emergency measures due to a public health emergency; and

WHEREAS, the City’s Emergency Ordinance authorizes the Emergency Management Director or designee to update, restrict, and promulgate regulations necessary to comply with federal, state and local authorities’ guidance in relation to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 19, 2020, the Governor of Texas issued Executive Order No. GA-08 (the “Executive Order”) relating to COVID-19 preparedness and mitigation; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Department of State Health Services has now determined that, as of March 19, 2020, COVID-19 represents a public health disaster within the meaning of Chapter 81 of the Texas Health and Safety Code; and

WHEREAS, the following directive adopts the Executive Order and shall take effect at 11:59 p.m. on March 20, 2020, and shall remain in effect until April 3, 2020, subject to extension thereafter based on the status of COVID-19 in Texas, and the recommendations of the CDC.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT DIRECTED BY THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF EL PASO:

1. That the findings and recitations set out in the preamble to this Directive are found to be true and correct and they are hereby adopted by the Mayor and made a part hereof for all purposes.

2. In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, every person in Texas shall avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10 people.
3. In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, people shall avoid eating or drinking at bars, restaurants, and food courts, or visiting gyms or massage parlors; provided, however, that the use of drive-thru, pickup, or delivery options is allowed and highly encouraged throughout the limited duration of the Executive Order.

4. In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, people shall not visit nursing homes or retirement or long-term care facilities unless to provide critical assistance.

5. In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, schools shall temporarily close.

6. The Executive Order does not prohibit people from visiting a variety of places, including grocery stores, gas stations, parks, and banks, so long as the necessary precautions are maintained to reduce the transmission of COVID-19. The Executive Order does not mandate sheltering in place. All critical infrastructure will remain operational, domestic travel will remain unrestricted, and government entities and businesses will continue to provide essential services. For offices and workplaces that remain open, employees should practice good hygiene and, where feasible, work from home in order to achieve optimum isolation from COVID-19. The more that people reduce their public contact, the sooner COVID-19 will be contained and the sooner the Executive Order and this Directive will expire.

7. This Directive supersedes all previous proclamations on this matter that are in conflict or inconsistent with its terms; this Directive shall take effect at 11:59 p.m. on March 20, 2020 and remain in effect until April 3, 2020, subject to being extended, modified, amended, rescinded, or superseded by me.

DIRECTED this the 20th day of March, 2020.

CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS

Dee Margo
Mayor of the City of El Paso

ATTEST:

Laura D. Prine
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Karla M. Henneman
City Attorney

20-1052-1059/979809/AS/Directive#1