

RESOLUTION  
NO. 2020-21

A RESOLUTION  
TO BE ENTITLED:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PENSACOLA, FLORIDA RESPECTFULLY ENCOURAGING THE ESCAMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSION TO PASS LEGISLATION REQUIRING THE WEARING OF FACE COVERINGS WITHIN THE COUNTY WHILE IN PUBLIC SETTINGS; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Donald J. Trump, President of the United States, on March 13, 2020, declared a state of emergency for the United States of America beginning March 1, 2020: and

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2020, the Governor of Florida issued Executive Order Number 20-52, declaring a State of Emergency for the state of Florida related to COVID-19: and

WHEREAS, the Escambia County Board of County Commissioners, on March 16, 2020, issued Resolution R2020-24 declaring a state of emergency for Escambia County: and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 poses a health risk to the residents of the City, particularly elderly residents and those who are immunosuppressed or otherwise have high-risk medical conditions; and

WHEREAS, the City finds that COVID-19 presents a danger to the health, safety, and welfare of the public; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is spread through airborne transmission from individuals speaking, coughing, and sneezing, and infectious droplet nuclei can spread for a great distance, although how far is not fully understood at present; and

WHEREAS, Governor DeSantis has issued a series of executive orders to re-open Florida, and some of the restrictions to flatten the curve and slow the spread of COVID-19 have correspondingly been relaxed; and

WHEREAS, the re-opening of the State has led and will continue to lead to more contact between individuals and the potential for increased community spread of the disease; and

WHEREAS, despite mitigation efforts, as reported by Florida Department of Health Officer (“Department of Health”) John Lanza, the number of positive cases of COVID-19 in Escambia County has spiked with 159 positive cases reported on June 25, 2020, an average of 59 new cases each day for the previous seven days, and a seven-day positivity rate of 4.58% for the week beginning June 14, 2020, versus 2.23% for the previous seven days, which indicates greater local community spread and transmission of the disease; and

WHEREAS, federal and state health officials have indicated that they expect additional cases of COVID-19 to be identified in the coming days and, based on the highly contagious nature of COVID-19, additional person-to-person transmission is likely; and

WHEREAS, conditions presented by the threat of COVID-19 continue to pose a threat to the public health that requires dynamic emergency response, including the imposition of additional mitigation strategies as conditions require; and

WHEREAS, the use of face coverings has been identified as a measure to assist in preventing individuals who may be shedding the COVID-19 virus from spreading it to other individuals; and

WHEREAS, to reduce the spread of the disease, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) recommends the use of cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain, such as inside businesses; and

WHEREAS, the CDC advises that the virus can spread between persons interacting in close proximity even if those persons are asymptomatic (persons not exhibiting symptoms) or are pre-symptomatic (persons who transmit the virus to others before showing symptoms); and

WHEREAS, on June 22, 2020, after Florida reported more than 4,000 new cases of COVID-19 in a single day, State Surgeon General Scott Rivkees issued an additional public health advisory recommending people wear face coverings in any setting where social distancing is not possible, stating that in gatherings of fewer than 50 people, individuals should maintain at least six feet distance from each other and wear a face covering; and

WHEREAS, the CDC recommends only simple cloth face coverings for the general population and not surgical masks or N-95 respirators because these

are critical supplies that must continue to be reserved for healthcare workers and other medical first responders; and

WHEREAS, cloth face coverings are relatively inexpensive, readily available, and can be made from household items, for which the CDC provides online guidance for making "do-it-yourself" face coverings for people who cannot or do not want to buy one from the increasing sources producing and selling face coverings; and

WHEREAS, the CDC and Dr. Rivkees delineates circumstances in which a face covering should not be worn; and

WHEREAS, the city and country borders are intertwined and at time indistinguishable to citizens when knowing whether a business is located within the city or the county; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PENSACOLA, FLORIDA:

SECTION 1. That the City Council of the City of Pensacola does hereby respectfully encourage the Escambia County Board of County Commissioners to pass Legislation making mandatory the wearing of face coverings in public settings.

SECTION 2. That a copy of this Resolution be sent to each member of the Board of County Commissioners.

SECTION 3. This Resolution shall become effective the fifth business day after adoption, unless otherwise provided pursuant to Section 4.03(d) of the City Charter of the City of Pensacola.

Adopted: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
President of City Council

Attest:

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