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Filed: 03-16-20

Sponsored by: City Council

First Reading:

Second Reading:

COUNCIL BILL 2020-061

SPECIAL ORDINANCE

AN ORDINANCE

1 PROHIBITING any public gathering of 50 or more persons except for educational
2 institutions, daycare facilities, and business operations in the
3 corporate limits of the City of Springfield during the duration of the
4 Mayor's proclamation of civil emergency dated March 16, 2020, or
5 any extension thereof; authorizing the Mayor to issue an order
6 amending which public gatherings are prohibited to protect public
7 health; establishing a penalty for violating the prohibition; and
8 declaring an emergency pursuant to City Charter Section 2.12.

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11 WHEREAS, in December 2019, medical professionals detected a novel
12 coronavirus, now designated as "SARS-CoV-2," which causes a disease known as
13 "coronavirus disease 2019" abbreviated and popularly known as "COVID-19"; and
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15 WHEREAS, on January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization Director
16 General declared an outbreak of COVID-19 as a Public Health Emergency of
17 International Concern, advising countries to prepare for containment, detection, isolation
18 and case management, contact tracing and prevention of onward spread of the disease;
19 and
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21 WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization Director General
22 characterized COVID-19 as a pandemic; and
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24 WHEREAS, on March 13, the President of the United States declared the
25 COVID-19 outbreak a national emergency; and
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27 WHEREAS, COVID-19 is spread person to person through direct or close
28 proximate contact and presents an imminent threat of widespread illness; and
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30 WHEREAS, three cases of COVID-19 have been diagnosed in the City, and in
31 some cases COVID-19 can lead to severe illness; and
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33 WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") has

34 recommended the cancellation or suspension of public gatherings of 50 individuals or
35 more with the exception of educational institutions, daycare facilities, and business
36 operations, and Governor Parson, on March 15, 2020, has encouraged local
37 governments to provide the same guidance; and
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39 WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, the Mayor declared a civil emergency because
40 of the threat COVID-19 poses to the public health.
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42 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
43 SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI, as follows, that:
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45 Section 1 – A “public gathering” for purposes of this Ordinance shall be defined
46 as a planned or spontaneous event with a number of people in attendance that could
47 facilitate the spread of a communicable disease.
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49 Section 2 – City Council hereby prohibits any public gathering of 50 or more
50 persons except for educational institutions, daycare facilities, and business operations
51 in the corporate limits of the City of Springfield during the duration of the Mayor’s
52 proclamation of civil emergency dated March 16, 2020, or any extension thereof.
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54 Section 3 – During the duration of the Mayor’s proclamation of civil emergency
55 dated March 16, 2020, or any extension thereof, City Council hereby authorizes the
56 Mayor, after consultation with appropriate city, county, and state officials as determined
57 within his discretion, to issue an order amending which public gatherings are prohibited,
58 either in number or in type, if in his judgment the prohibition should be amended to
59 protect public health.
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61 Section 4 – No person shall fail, neglect, or refuse to comply with, or in any
62 manner aid, assist, encourage or countenance the commission or perpetration of a
63 violation of the prohibition in this Ordinance or any subsequent order regarding public
64 gatherings issued by the Mayor during the time said proclamation of civil emergency, or
65 any extension thereof, shall be in effect. Any person who shall violate this provision
66 shall, upon conviction, be punished as provided by Springfield City Code Section 1-7.
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68 Section 5 – City Council hereby finds and declares that an emergency exists in
69 that large public gatherings will facilitate the spread of a communicable disease,
70 COVID-19, and therefore this Ordinance relates to the preservation of the public health
71 and safety pursuant to Section 2.12(1) of the City Charter and may be passed in one
72 reading. This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after passage.
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75 Passed at meeting: _____

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Mayor

Attest: _____, City Clerk

Filed as Ordinance: _____

Approved as to form: Rhonda Lewsader, City Attorney

Approved for Council action: Jason A. Hays, City Manager

EXPLANATION TO COUNCIL BILL 2020-061

FILED: 03-16-20

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Law

PURPOSE: To prohibit any public gathering of 50 or more persons except for educational institutions, daycare facilities, and business operations in the corporate limits of the City of Springfield during the duration of the Mayor’s proclamation of civil emergency dated March 16, 2020, or any extension thereof; authorizing the Mayor to issue an order amending which public gatherings are prohibited to protect public health; establishing a penalty for violating the prohibition; and declaring an emergency pursuant to City Charter Section 2.12.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: In December 2019, medical professionals detected a novel coronavirus, now designated as “SARS-CoV-2,” which causes a disease known as “coronavirus disease 2019” abbreviated and popularly known as “COVID-19.” On January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization Director General declared an outbreak of COVID-19 as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern, advising countries to prepare for containment, detection, isolation and case management, contact tracing and prevention of onward spread of the disease.

The public health crisis related to COVID-19 continued to grow, and on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization Director General characterized COVID-19 as a pandemic. On March 13, the President of the United States declared the COVID-19 outbreak a national emergency.

COVID-19 is spread person to person through direct or close proximate contact and presents an imminent threat of widespread illness. Three positive cases of COVID-19 have been announced in Greene County by the Springfield-Greene County Health Department. While most cases of COVID-19 are mild, it can result in severe illness and fatality. Because of the threat posed to public health by COVID-19, on March 16, 2020, the Mayor declared a civil emergency.

The Centers for Disease Control (“CDC”) has recommended the cancellation or suspension of public gatherings of 50 individuals or more with the exception of educational institutions, daycare facilities, and business operations, and Governor Parsons has encouraged local governments to provide the same guidance. This Ordinance would prohibit public gatherings of 50 or more individuals except education institutions, daycare facilities, and business operations while the Mayor’s declaration of a civil emergency is in effect.

Because the spread of COVID-19 is an evolving situation, this Ordinance also authorizes the Mayor to amend which public gatherings are prohibited, either in number or in type, by issuing an order, during the time his declaration of civil emergency is in effect. This Ordinance also establishes a penalty for violation of the prohibition.

Submitted by:

Approved by:


Rhonda Lewsader, City Attorney


Jason Gage, City Manager