

PROCLAMATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY

CITY OF FERNDALE, WASHINGTON

WHEREAS, novel Coronavirus COVID-19, a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death, is caused by a new strain of coronavirus that had not been previously identified in humans and has proven it can easily spread from person to person; and,

WHEREAS, the U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), has identified a potential public health threat posed by COVID-19 both globally and within the United States, including within Washington State; and,

WHEREAS, there are documented cases of COVID-19, including deaths caused thereby, within Washington State; and,

WHEREAS, the Washington State Department of Health has confirmed the person-to-person spread of COVID-19 and is finding an increasing risk of exposure and infection to the general public due to its potential to spread quickly; and,

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services declared a public health emergency for COVID-19 on January 31, 2020; and,

WHEREAS, Washington State Governor Jay Inslee proclaimed a public health emergency for COVID-19 on February 29, 2020; and,

WHEREAS, Whatcom County Executive Satpal Sidhu declared a public health emergency regarding COVID-19 on March 10, 2020; and,

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

WHEREAS, there is an emergency present which necessitates this Proclamation.

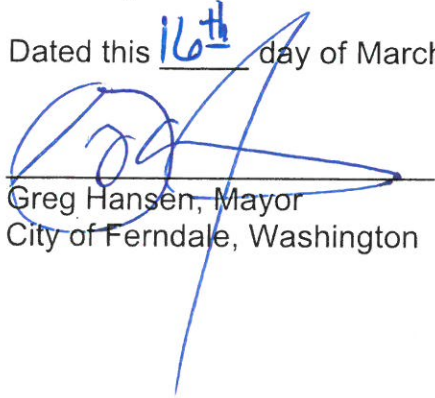
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT DECLARED BY THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF FERNDALE, WASHINGTON:

1. **Proclamation.** It is hereby declared under Ferndale Municipal Code (FMC) Chapter 2.07 and Chapter 38.52 RCW that COVID-19 is a civil public health emergency that exists within the boundaries of Whatcom County, Washington that could have an impact on the citizens of Ferndale and which:
 - A. Demands immediate action to preserve public health, protect life, protect public property, or to provide relief to any stricken neighborhood overtaken by such occurrences; and

- B. Could, if unattended, seriously affect the safety, health, or welfare of a substantial number of citizens of the City, or preclude the operation or use of essential public services and facilities with such magnitude or severity as to necessitate seeking state or county supplementation of local efforts or resources exerted or utilized in alleviating the danger, damage, suffering or hardship faced.
2. **Authority.** This Proclamation of Local Emergency (Proclamation) authorizes the undersigned to exercise such emergency powers as may be lawful under FMC Chapter 2.07, Chapter 38.52 RCW, and any other applicable laws, regulations or ordinances, such as RCW 39.04.280(3) for emergency procurement. Effective upon signature hereto, the undersigned will exercise such lawful authority through the use and direction of City personnel, services, equipment and such additional acts as the undersigned may find necessary in his sole discretion to manage this emergency.
 3. **Powers.** Per FMC 2.07.030, RCW 39.04.280(3), and Chapter 38.52 RCW, the Mayor shall have all necessary powers as outlined in law to prepare for, prevent and respond to this emergency, including, by way of example and not limitation, making necessary rules and regulations reasonably related to the emergency, to obtain supplies, equipment, personal property, professional, procured or technical services, etc. (including selecting and awarding such contracts as necessary), such public works as defined by RCW 39.04.010, to authorize overtime for personnel, to requisition personnel and material, obtain emergency funding and permitting through federal, state and local agencies, to delegate authority when necessary or appropriate, and take such other lawful acts as may be necessary and reasonably related to the emergency situation declared hereunder. The Mayor shall, as early as practical following action, keep the City Council informed of all action taken under this Section 3.
 4. **City Hall and Staffing.** While staff functions will remain the same, in order to protect the public health, the Mayor is authorized to modify working hours, City Hall operations, and the degree to which City facilities are open to the public. Members of the public are encouraged to communicate with City staff via telephone and email, and to make use of the information and resources available through the City's website. Permit applications and other submissions to the City can be made electronically during this time period. The City will continue to monitor the situation and will communicate any changes to the public.
 5. **City Council.** At this time the City will seek to place only essential business on future City Council agendas until such modifications are no longer necessary and will seek to utilize technology to conduct such meetings remotely with a mechanism in place for the public to attend the meetings through electronic means.

6. **Termination.** This Proclamation shall continue in full force and effect until terminated as prescribed by law or action by the Mayor or by City Council by ordinance and shall be reviewed as a regular agenda item on the City Council's agenda until such time as this Proclamation is terminated.

Dated this 16th day of March, 2020.



Greg Hansen, Mayor
City of Ferndale, Washington