



**PROCLAMATION OF THE CITY MANAGER OF THE CITY OF LAKEWOOD,
COLORADO DECLARING A STATE OF DISASTER AS A RESULT OF THE NOVEL
CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)**

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Public Health and Human Services Secretary declared a public emergency for the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) beginning on January 27, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, Colorado Governor Jared Polis declared a State of Disaster Emergency as the number of identified COVID-19 cases in Colorado increased, and announced numerous emergency measures to protect public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, the Jefferson County Department of Public Health has informed the City of Lakewood that the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Jefferson County continues to increase; and

WHEREAS, the cost and magnitude of responding to and recovery from the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic may be far in excess of the City's available resources; and

WHEREAS, declaration of a local disaster emergency will assist and permit access to local emergency funds and Federal and State assistance, and will allow adjustments to policies, procedures, and ordinances to ensure the public's health and welfare; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate and in the interests of the public health and safety of the City and its residents to rapidly address community spread of COVID-19 and subsequent cascading impacts, such as economic distress, and to further protect the health and safety of the public by declaring a state of disaster in the City of Lakewood; and

WHEREAS, the situation is sufficiently serious that it has become necessary for the City Manager to declare a state of disaster within the City of Lakewood pursuant to Chapter 1.27 of the Lakewood Municipal Code, and to exercise the City Manager's emergency powers set forth therein; and

WHEREAS, I have reviewed the situation, consulted with City of Lakewood Department Directors and the Jefferson County Director of Public Health, and verified the existence of the state of disaster cited below, and the necessity for me to take immediate, extraordinary action as outlined in this Proclamation.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, KATHLEEN E. HODGSON, AS CITY MANAGER OF THE
CITY OF LAKEWOOD, COLORADO, DO PROCLAIM AND ORDER AS FOLLOWS:**

SECTION 1. DECLARATION OF STATE OF DISASTER

A. Based on my review of the present circumstances and my consultations with City of Lakewood Department Directors, the Jefferson County Director of Public Health and the Director of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, I have determined that a state of disaster exists requiring and authorizing me to exercise any or all of the emergency powers vested in me as City Manager by Lakewood Municipal Code Chapter 1.27 as described in this Proclamation. The issuance and execution of this Proclamation declaring a state of disaster shall automatically empower me as the City Manager to exercise any and all of the disaster and emergency powers and shall activate all relevant portions of the Emergency Plan and Management System. Nothing in this Proclamation shall be construed to limit or reduce the authority or powers available to the City Manager pursuant to Chapter 1.27, and all provisions of Chapter 1.27 shall remain in full force and effect regardless of whether those provisions are referenced herein.

B. I will be exercising the authority provided in Chapter 1.27 through the mechanisms identified therein, including through the promulgation of such regulations as I deem necessary to protect life and property and preserve critical resources, through the issuance of emergency orders, proclamations and other enactments and through the use and direction of City personnel, services and equipment and such additional acts necessary for the management of the state of disaster.

C. Pursuant to Lakewood Municipal Code section 1.27.071, it is unlawful for any person to violate or to knowingly fail to obey any order or regulation made or issued pursuant to that Chapter. Penalties for violations of any order or regulation promulgated by the City Manager or for violations of any provision of Chapter 1.27 shall be as set forth in Section 1.27.120 of the Lakewood Municipal Code.

SECTION 2. DISTRIBUTION OF DECLARATION OF STATE OF DISASTER

Once issued, this Proclamation shall be properly published and disseminated to the public and filed with the City Clerk and the City Council. A copy of this Proclamation shall be forwarded to the Colorado Division of Emergency Management and the Department of Local Affairs.

SECTION 3. DURATION OF DECLARATION OF STATE OF DISASTER.

Pursuant to LMC Section 1.27.060(D), the state of disaster declared by this Proclamation shall remain in effect until the City Manager declares by Proclamation that the threat of danger has passed or that the disaster conditions no longer exist, suggesting that the City Manager has the authority to declare a state of disaster of indefinite duration. However, Section 1.27.060(D) further provides that a declaration of a state of disaster cannot extend beyond seven days, unless a majority of the City Council approves a longer duration. Inasmuch as the COVID-19 disaster will obviously extend well beyond seven days, the City Manager intends to ask the City Council to vote, at its next meeting, to declare the state of disaster to continue indefinitely. In making the ultimate determination as to whether the danger has passed or the disaster conditions no longer exist, the City Manager may consider such factors as whether the state of Colorado's declaration of disaster has been terminated.

SIGNED THIS 17th DAY OF March

BY: Kathleen E. Hodgson

Kathleen E. Hodgson, City Manager
City of Lakewood, Colorado

ATTEST:

Michele Millard

Michele Millard, City Clerk
City of Lakewood, Colorado

