SECOND AMENDMENT TO DECLARATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, on March 20, 2020 the Mayor issued a Declaration of Local Emergency ("Executive Order 20-01") in response to the COVID-19 crises which imposed certain restrictions with respect to gatherings and the operations of various types of businesses; and

WHEREAS, on March 23, 2020 the Governor of Georgia issued an Executive Order which prohibited gatherings of more than ten (10) people; and

WHEREAS, Mayor’s Executive Order 20-01 was adopted by Council as part of Ordinance No. 20-010, on March 24, 2020 and extended to April 6, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on March 27, 2020 the Mayor issued a First Amendment to Declaration of Local Emergency which prohibited the use of certain outdoor facilities in the public parks of Columbus that were drawing gatherings of more than ten people and promoting the disregard for safe social distancing; and

WHEREAS, on March 29, 2020 the President of the United States announced that the social distancing and other gathering restrictions recommended by the CDC would be extended nationwide until April 30, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor wishes to provide clarity and predictability to the citizens and businesses of Muscogee County.

THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the following restrictions already in effect by Executive Orders with the modification of adding restrictions on outside dining at restaurants are extended from their initial April 6, 2020 expiration up to and including April 30, 2020, in accordance with the authority granted by Council pursuant to Ordinance No. 20-01:

All public or private Community Gatherings of more than ten (10) people anywhere within Columbus, Georgia are prohibited for the duration of this Order. A “Community Gathering” is defined as any indoor or outdoor event or convening, subject to the exceptions below, that brings together or is likely to bring together ten (10) or more persons at the same time in a single room or other single confined or enclosed space, such as an auditorium, stadium (indoor or outdoor), tent arena or event center, music venue, meeting hall, conference center, large cafeteria, or any other confined indoor or outdoor space. A community gathering does not include the following or similar uses, so long as persons attending the Community gathering are generally not within six (6) feet of each other for extended periods: (1) spaces where persons may be in transit or waiting for transit such as airports, bus stations or terminals; (2) office or manufacturing space, child-care facilities, residential buildings or any type of temporary sheltering or housing; (3) grocery stores or pharmacies; and (4) hospital or medical facilities.

Notwithstanding the previous paragraph, the following business use categories will be regulated as follows: (1) Restaurants open to the public shall close except to provide take-out or curbside service to include alcoholic beverages in sealed containers which they are otherwise licensed to dispense, provided that take out or curbside service shall not include food consumption at any outdoor seating on the premises of or adjoining the restaurant; (2) All business locations with on-premise consumption alcoholic beverage licenses which are not also restaurants shall be closed for business; (3) All
establishments providing body care services which require close physical contact between the provider and client such as barbering, hair design, cosmetology, esthetics, massage therapy (except for medically licensed physical therapy), tattooing, or nail care shall be closed for business; (4) All indoor recreation facilities, to include gyms, health studios, indoor amusement facilities, bowling alleys, pool halls and theaters shall be closed for business; and (5) All other retail sales establishments will be permitted to remain open subject to the following restrictions: Businesses having less than 30,000 square feet shall have no more than ten (10) customers on their premises at any one time, and businesses with more than 30,000 square feet of retail space shall have no more than fifty (50) customers on their premises at any one time; and customers shall generally not be within six (6) feet of each other for extended periods.

All outdoor areas of City parks and park restrooms will remain open provided that six (6) foot social distancing is practiced, however, all other facilities and recreational equipment located within the parks are off limits, including but not limited to, tennis courts, basketball courts, volley ball courts, exercise stations, pavilions, and playground equipment.

This amendment restates and renews all requirements of Section 3 of Executive Order 20-01 and Executive Order 20-02. The added restriction on outside dining at restaurants shall take effect at midnight on March 31, 2020. This Executive Order shall expire by its own terms at midnight on April 30, 2020 unless extended or rescinded by further action of the Mayor or Columbus Council. Violations of this order will be punished as provided by Section 1-8 of the Columbus Code.

SO ORDERED, This 31st day of March, 2020.

B.H. “Skip” Henderson, III,
Mayor of Columbus, Georgia