



ROBERT A.B. REICHERT
MAYOR

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Macon-Bibb County

700 POPLAR STREET
P.O. BOX 247
MACON, GEORGIA 31202-0247
(478) 751-7170
FAX (478) 751-7931

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

MARCH 20, 2020

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared that the COVID-19 disease is a global pandemic, in response to over 118,000 cases present in over 110 countries globally; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, President Donald Trump declared a national emergency, and pledged the “full power of the federal government” to fight this pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 14, 2020, Governor Brian Kemp issued Executive Order 3.14.20.01, which declared a public health emergency for the purpose of easing restrictions that might otherwise hinder the ability of public health systems to respond appropriately to the COVID-19 pandemic, through April 13, 2020, unless further extended; and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, the Georgia General Assembly entered a 2020 Special Session to adopt House Resolution 4EX, ratifying Governor Brian Kemp’s public health emergency declaration, and reserving the right to terminate the emergency declaration through future legislative action; and

WHEREAS, a critical component of the public response to the COVID-19 pandemic is to practice “social distancing” by minimizing contact between people residing in different households as much as possible; and

WHEREAS, funeral viewings, memorials, and other services are a fundamental part of civilized society, allowing aggrieved families an opportunity to say goodbye to their loved ones and to show their mutual love and support for each other; and

WHEREAS, in the event that a person in Macon-Bibb County passes away during this period of public health emergency, it would pose a serious danger to those members of the community who would normally gather in large numbers for funeral services by exposing each other to the novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the competitive nature of the funeral services industry creates a market in which funeral establishments might be disincentivized from taking reasonable precautions to restrict crowd sizes at funeral services for public health purposes so long as competitors continue to offer unrestricted funeral services to aggrieved families; and

WHEREAS, it is the opinion of this Office that each individual business and person in this community should exercise discretion and judgment to reasonably protect the public health by avoiding crowds and unnecessary interpersonal contact, and by avoiding inviting crowds to assemble;

NOW, THEREFORE, BY THE POWER INVESTED IN ME AS MAYOR OF MACON-BIBB COUNTY, IT IS HEREBY ORDERD THAT:

1.

Effective immediately, all funeral directors, embalmers, funeral establishments, and crematories licensed under Chapter 18 of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, and all persons or businesses otherwise regulated or licensed by the Georgia State Board of Funeral Service are strongly encouraged to take the following precautionary measures:

- A. Avoid conducting any indoor funeral service, whether in the mortuary chapel or any place of worship, unless no more than ten people, including clergy or any employees or officials providing the funeral services or assisting therewith, are permitted in the room where funeral services are occurring.
- B. If indoor funeral services are offered, then sanitize all frequent contact points within the location on at least an hourly basis, in accordance with the recommendations of the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, including: door knobs and handles between any public entrance and the location within the building where funeral services are held; door knobs and handles on all doors leading to and from office or restroom facilities; publicly accessible seating and restroom facilities; guestbook stands and writing utensils; podiums; and any other surfaces or objects that are frequently contacted or handled by guests.
- C. For any funeral services in which attendees drive from a starting location to a secondary location, such as a cemetery, do not offer limousine rides to guests in any vehicle provided by the funeral establishment or crematory. Instead, guests should ride in personal vehicles to the secondary location or arrange for other transportation.
- D. For funeral services conducted outdoors, take steps to ensure that members of the crowd arriving separately stand or sit at least six feet apart from each other.

- E. At all funeral services, make available suitable alcohol-based hand sanitizer or sanitizing hand wipes at a location that can be readily seen by all persons arriving to and departing from the funeral services.
- F. In discussing arrangements for funeral services, advise customers that guests who are experiencing symptoms of illness, or who have recently had close contact with any person experiencing symptoms of illness should avoid attending any funeral services.
- G. Encourage any customers wishing to have a large memorial service to do so after the current public health emergency has resolved.

2.

This order shall be advisory only, and shall not be construed to carry the force of law.

SO ORDERED this 20th day of March, 2020.



By: Robert A. B. Reichert
ROBERT A.B. REICHERT, Mayor

Attest: Janice S. Ross
JANICE S. ROSS, Clerk of Commission

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