

CITY OF COLUMBIA, ILLINOIS
ORDINANCE NO. 3506

**AN ORDINANCE RELATED TO THE EMERGENCY CREATED BY THE IMPACT OF
THE COVID-19 VIRUS**

WHEREAS, the City of Columbia ("City"), Monroe and St. Clair Counties, Illinois is a duly created, organized and validly existing municipality of the State of Illinois under the 1970 Illinois Constitution and the laws of the State of Illinois, including particularly the Illinois Municipal Code, and all laws amendatory thereof and supplementary thereto; and

WHEREAS, on January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the outbreak of COVID-19 to be a public health emergency of international concern and on March 11, 2020 declared a worldwide pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, the Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services declared a public health emergency for the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Illinois has issued a disaster proclamation on March 9, 2020 due to the impact of the COVID-19 virus and has activated the State Emergency Operations Center; and

WHEREAS, the State Emergency Management Agency has declared a public health emergency due to the impact of the COVID-19 virus; and

WHEREAS, the City Administration has coordinated its response with other City/County governmental entities; and

WHEREAS, the Corporate Authorities have considered the health of the public in acting upon this ordinance and actions required to promote the health, safety, and welfare of its citizens.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Columbia, as follows:

Section 1. The preceding recitations in the upper part of this Ordinance are realleged, restated and adopted as paragraph one ("1") of this Ordinance.

Section 2. **City Council Meetings.** That any regular or special meetings of the City Council may be conducted at the call of the Mayor or four Aldermen via electronic means including audio or video conference. Such meetings may be held, providing such notice to the public and media as is reasonable under the circumstances, and if possible, providing access to the public and including a means for public participation. All such meetings shall be considered "emergency meetings" under the law. During this period of emergency, Council Rules are hereby modified to

require an affirmative vote of a majority of a quorum present, electronically or physically, at the meeting for the passage of any council action or to provide policy direction.

Section 3. **Meetings of Boards and Commissions.** That the Mayor or his designee may cancel meetings of any board or commission to which the Mayor appoints members. Any such cancellation shall automatically extend such deadlines for required actions by such board or commission as is specified in the cancellation notice.

Section 4. **Licensed or Permitted Activities.** That the Mayor or his designee may suspend licenses or permits for special events or any other licenses or permits issued by the City which in the judgment of the Mayor or his designee could impact the public health or well-being of residents or visitors to the community.

Section 5. **City Facilities.** That the Mayor or his designee is hereby authorized to close City facilities as is reasonably required to protect the health of the public and employees of the City.

Section 6. **Ordinance Violations.** That the City Attorney is hereby authorized to extend any timeframe for payment of filing related to City ordinance violations in recognition of the emergency.

Section 7. **Administrative Tow Hearings.** That the Administrative Tow Hearing scheduled for April 9, 2020 shall be postponed until May 14, 2020. The Chief of Police or his designee is hereby directed to provide due notice to affected owners of motor vehicles.

Section 8. **Amounts Due and Owing.** That the Mayor or his designee, upon the recommendation of the Accounting Manager, is hereby authorized to extend deadline for payment related to any amounts due and owing to the City.

Section 9. **Rent or Lease Payments Due and Owing.** That the Mayor or his designee, upon the recommendation of the City Administrator, is hereby authorized to waive, reduce, or extend deadline for payment related to any lease agreements for City-owned properties.

Section 10. **Absence or Incapacity.** That in the absence or incapacity of the Mayor, the Mayor may delegate such powers to an emergency interim successor who may take such actions as are provided herein.

Section 11. That this ordinance shall be construed as a declaration of a local disaster as provided for under 20 ILCS 3305/11 hereby granting authority for the Mayor to issue a declaration of emergency for sixty (60) day periods unless repealed or amended by the City Council.

Section 12. This Ordinance shall take full force and effect immediately upon passage by the Corporate Authorities.

PASSED by the City Council and **APPROVED** by the Mayor of the City of Columbia, Illinois and deposited and filed in the office of the City Clerk on the 27th day of March, 2020, the vote being taken by ayes and noes and entered upon the legislative record as follows:

AYES: Aldermen Ebersohl, Agne, Niemietz, Roessler, Huch, Holtkamp, Martens, and Riddle.

NOES: None.

ABSTENTIONS: None.

ABSENT: None.

APPROVED:


KEVIN B. HUTCHINSON, Mayor

ATTEST:


WESLEY J. HOEFKEN, City Clerk

(SEAL)