

EMERGENCY ORDINANCE

WHEREAS, Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a severe acute respiratory illness that can spread among humans through respiratory transmission and other potential methods, and presents symptoms similar to those of influenza;

WHEREAS, in December of 2019, a new and substantial outbreak of COVID-19 emerged in Wuhan, China, and has since spread rapidly to 117 countries and territories throughout the World, including the United States, and more specifically Horry County and numerous other counties in the State of South Carolina;

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID-19 a pandemic;

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is predicting that it is likely that widespread transmission of COVID-19 will also occur in the United States;

WHEREAS, no vaccine or drug is currently available to cure or combat COVID-19;

WHEREAS, the Town of Surfside Beach is threatened by COVID-19 because of the apparent ability of the virus to spread rapidly among humans, and COVID-19 thereby constitutes a clear and present threat to the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens and visitors of the Town of Surfside Beach;

WHEREAS, the CDC has issued guidelines for "community mitigation strategies" to limit the spread of COVID-19, including recommendations for social distancing, which has proven to be an effective method for containing COVID-19;

WHEREAS, the Town of Surfside Beach is working with other government agencies in an effort to prevent the spread of disease;

WHEREAS, Governor Henry McMaster issued an executive order that closed all dine-in services at restaurants and bars beginning on Wednesday, March 18, and limiting all business to to-go/take out services only;

WHEREAS, Section 5-7-250 (d) of the South Carolina Code of Laws empowers Council to enact emergency ordinances affecting life, health, or safety; and

WHEREAS, in light of the foregoing, the Town of Surfside Beach deems it proper and necessary to adopt this emergency ordinance in order to, among other things: (a) suspend the rental and use of Short-Term Rentals, Hotels, and other Overnight Accommodations for 29 days or less beginning 7 a.m. Saturday, March 28, 2020 through

April 30, 2020. Visitors currently checked in may remain until the end of their existing reservations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council of the Town of Surfside Beach, in Council assembled, that:

1. Rental and use of Short-Term Rentals, including, but not limited to Hotels, Motels, Condo Hotels, Rental Properties, inclusive of private management companies and HOA's, Airbnb, VRBO style lodging, and other Overnight Accommodations for 29 days or less beginning 7 a.m. Saturday, March 28, 2020 through April 30, 2020 shall be prohibited. Visitors currently checked in may remain until the end of their existing reservations.
2. Exempt: Short-Term Rentals extended to Government, Hospital, Health Agency, Law Enforcement, Military and other Critical Personnel actively responding to COVID-19.
3. Any violation of any rule or regulation issued and set forth herein shall be punishable as provided in the Code of Ordinance for the Town of Surfside Beach, Chapter 1, and Section 1-16 (a) General Penalty.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL FOR THE TOWN OF SURFSIDE BEACH, ON THE 27th DAY OF MARCH, 2020.

Surfside Beach Town Council

Robert Hellyer, Mayor

Debbie Scoles, Mayor Pro Tempore

Bruce H. Dietrich, Town Council

Michael Drake, Town Council

Paul Holder, Town Council

Cindy Keating, Town Council

David L. Pellegrino, Town Council

Attest: _____
Sheri L Medina, Town Clerk