

**ORDER CLOSING PUBLIC BEACH ACCESS POINTS
WEST OF THE WESTERN TERMINUS OF THE SEAWALL
IN THE CITY OF GALVESTON
ISSUED BY
THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF GALVESTON**

WHEREAS, the City of Galveston, Texas, has declared a state of emergency in accordance with Tex. Gov't Code Ch. 418 related to the Corona/Covid 19 virus; and

WHEREAS, both the federal Center for Disease Control and the Texas Department of Health Services related to the Corona/Covid 19 virus have stressed undertaking steps to control of the virus; and

WHEREAS, those entities have urged that the failure to take steps to diminish the spread of the virus will result in the overwhelming of the health care system in this area with a concomitant increase of mortality; and

WHEREAS, the Galveston County Health District has confirmed the presence of Corona virus in Galveston County caused by community spread and the number of active cases in the County continues to grow; and

WHEREAS, the present emphasis is the control of community spread of the virus by limiting the number of citizens who are interacting within a given area; and

WHEREAS, the presence of a high concentration of citizens on the beaches in Galveston presents an opportunity for community spread of the virus; and

WHEREAS, the City has taken further steps to discourage people from congregating in highly concentrated groups by closing amenities at beaches and parks; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of these control measures has been to diminish the numbers of visitors to the City and thereby curtail the concentration of individuals in areas to reduce the chance of community spread of the virus from person to person; and

WHEREAS, it appears that the efforts of the City to diminish the concentrations of citizens on the public beach have been unsuccessful based on the large number of individuals concentrated at the parking area of the designated beach access points west of the western terminus of the Galveston Seawall and to control this opportunity for the spread of the virus more robust measures are required.

NOW THEREFORE, I, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF GALVESTON, HEREBY FIND AND ORDER THAT:

SECTION 1. The findings and recitations set out in the preamble to this Order are found to be true and correct and they are hereby adopted by the Mayor and made a part hereof for all purposes;

SECTION 2. For purposes of this Order, the term "beach access points" shall refer to the points of access to the beach from FM 3005 and identified as beach access points in the City's dune and beach access plan, typically but not always identified as beach access points by signage, and which are situated west of the western terminus of the Galveston Seawall.

SECTION 3. The term “vehicle” in this order shall refer to any mode of conveyance with two of more wheels powered by an electric or internal combustion engine, and shall include, but not limited to, mopeds, motorcycles, golf carts, automobiles and trucks.

SECTION 4. It is hereby Ordered that beach access points west of the western terminus of the Galveston Seawall be and are hereby closed to vehicle traffic. It is a violation of this Order for any member of the public to drive a vehicle onto the beach utilizing a beach access point for any reason.

SECTION 5 This order may be enforced by any City of Galveston police officer, the City Marshall or any deputy City Marshall, or any peace officer of the State of Texas

SECTION 6. In accordance with the Texas Disaster Act, this declaration shall take effect immediately upon entry as set forth below and shall terminate seven days from the entry of this Order or until further Order of the City.

SO DECLARED AND ORDERED at 1:00 pm this the 29th day of March 2020.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

DONALD S. GLYWASKY
CITY ATTORNEY



JAMES D. YARBROUGH
MAYOR, CITY OF GALVESTON

ATTEST:



JANELLE WILLIAMS
CITY SECRETARY

