

Grass Valley Disaster Council Order 2020-01

**AN ORDER OF THE DISASTER COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRASS VALLEY
REGARDING CLOSURE OF PLACES OF PUBLIC ASSEMBLY**

WHEREAS, Grass Valley Municipal Code Section 8.12.010 et seq. creates the Disaster Council of the City of Grass Valley, and empowers it to develop and implement emergency and mutual aid plans and to proclaim the existence or threatened existence of conditions of disaster or of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the City of Grass Valley that result in a local emergency; and

WHEREAS, Government Code section 8634 provides that “[d]uring a local emergency the governing body of a political subdivision, or officials designated thereby, may promulgate orders and regulations necessary to provide for the protection of life and property, including orders or regulations imposing a curfew within designated boundaries where necessary to preserve the public order and safety;” and

WHEREAS, conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons or property have arisen within the City of Grass Valley as a result of the spread of the COVID-19 virus throughout California, including the first case within Nevada County reported on March 16, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Governor declared a Statewide state of emergency due to the COVID-19 virus on Wednesday, March 4; and

WHEREAS, the Disaster Council proclaimed the existence of a local emergency in the City of Grass Valley on the 5th day of March 2020, which the City Council ratified March 10, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on March 12, 2020, Governor Newsom ordered cancellation of all non-essential gatherings over 250 people anywhere in the State and further called for cancelling or postponing smaller gatherings where those attending cannot maintain six feet of separation; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued guidance on March 15, 2020 recommending that gatherings of 50 or more people be cancelled or postponed for at least eight weeks to slow the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Disaster Council understands there is an imminent and proximate threat of the continued spread of COVID-19 in the City that threatens the health and safety of City residents and warrants actions to limit its spread.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that all commercial places of public assembly with Fire Code occupancy limits of 25 or more persons shall no longer operate for commercial purposes. Places of public assembly include, but are not limited to, movie theaters, performing arts venues, and auditoriums. This action does not include restaurants and/or similar uses.

IT IS FURTHER RECOMMENDED that all non-commercial places of public assembly with occupancy limits of 25 persons or more no longer permit the gathering of 25 or more persons. This is an advisory measure in acknowledgment of the First Amendment right of persons to congregate for non-commercial activities.

IT IS FURTHER RECOMMENDED that the administrative charges for using credit cards to pay City utility bills be waived for 60 days, or as ordered by the Director of Emergency Services.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Order shall take effect immediately, and shall remain in effect until the termination of the local emergency by the City Council, or at an earlier date as ordered by the Disaster Council.

ORDERED by the Disaster Council of the City of Grass Valley on the 16th of March 2020.



Lisa Swarthout, Chair
Grass Valley Disaster Council

ATTEST:



Tim Kiser, Member
Grass Valley Disaster Council

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Michael G. Colantuono, Counsel
Grass Valley Disaster Council