



City Attorney

DATE: March 17, 2020
FROM: Jannelle Combs, City Attorney
ITEM: State of Emergency Declaration ratification

REQUEST

Ratify the March 15, 2020, state of emergency declaration relating to COVID-19 by the President of City Commission and extend its effect to April 14, 2020.

Please place this item on the 3/24/2020 City Commission consent meeting agenda.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Bismarck City ordinance 2-08-03 provides that the President of the City Commission can declare a local state of emergency. The emergency declaration will exist for a period not to exceed 15 days, unless the City Commission ratifies the declaration within the 15-day period. If it is ratified, it is then valid for another 15 days. The declaration was provided to all of the Commissioners and media upon signature on March 15th.

RECOMMENDED CITY COMMISSION ACTION

Ratify the March 15, 2020 state of emergency declaration relating to COVID-19 by President Bakken and extend its effect to April 14, 2020.

STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:

March 15, 2020

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**COVID-19 EMERGENCY DECLARATION,
CITY OF BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA**

Bismarck, N.D.

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a severe respiratory illness, caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, a new strain of coronavirus that is spread from person to person, posing a threat to the health and safety of the residents of the City of Bismarck; and

WHEREAS, no drug or vaccine is currently available to treat or prevent COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, United States Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar declared a national public health emergency for COVID-19 on January 27, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a global pandemic on March 11, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, President Donald Trump issued a declaration of a national emergency due to the growing COVID-19 crisis in the United States; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, Governor Doug Burgum issued a declaration of a state emergency in response to the public health crisis resulting from the novel coronavirus (COVID-19); and

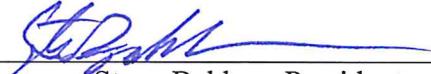
WHEREAS, Bismarck City Ordinance 2-08-03 provides that the President of the Commission has the power to declare a local disaster emergency

WHEREAS, preparedness, response and recovery from the COVID-19 virus requires a whole-of-government and whole-of-community approach across all governments as well as

private and nonprofit sectors, and the virus has the risk of substantially endangering the health, safety and property of the citizens of Bismarck.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the President of the Board of City Commissioners does declare a state of emergency exists in the City of Bismarck, North Dakota in response to the public health crisis resulting from the novel coronavirus (COVID-19).

DATED at Bismarck, North Dakota this 15th day of March, 2020.



Steve Bakken, President
City of Bismarck Commission