

ORDINANCE NO. ____

AN ORDINANCE REGARDING THE USE OF MASKS IN RELATION TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, an outbreak of COVID-19 (coronavirus) has resulted in an ongoing global pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on June 18, 2020, Executive Order 20-37 declared that the emergency declared pursuant to Executive Order 20-03 and its amendments was terminated and that the public health and disaster emergency and declaration of the State of Arkansas as a disaster area resulting from the state-wide impact of Covid-19 was declared anew and would be effective for sixty (60) days unless renewed; and

WHEREAS, on June 19, 2020, the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) released guidance regarding the use of face masks/coverings by the general public which asserts that ample evidence exists to support the efficacy of wearing face masks to prevent the transmission of Covid-19 including a World Health Organization (WHO) funded study; and

WHEREAS, the afore-mentioned ADH guidance on masks recommends that the general public should wear face coverings in ALL indoor environments where they are exposed to non-household members and distancing of 6 feet or more cannot be assured. This includes, but is not limited to, workplaces, retail stores, businesses, places of worship, courtrooms, jails/prisons, schools, healthcare facilities, and other people's homes; and

WHEREAS, the afore-mentioned ADH guidance recommends that the general public should also wear face coverings in ALL outdoor settings where there is exposure to non-household members, unless there exists ample space of 6 feet or more to practice physical distancing; and

WHEREAS, Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson supports and encourages the usage of facial coverings in an effort to curb the spread of Covid-19; and

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court has long recognized state and local control over the spread of infection diseases and gave broad leeway in responding to these threats in *Jacobson v. Massachusetts*, 197 U.S. 11 (1905); and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) encourages the use of cloth face coverings to curb the spread of Covid-19; and

WHEREAS, individuals infected with Covid-19 are often asymptomatic and may transmit the virus; and

WHEREAS, the health of employees and patrons of reopened businesses is directly threatened by individuals who enter such establishments without a facial covering.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1: That upon consultation with the ADH and the Governor's Office, the City of North Little Rock requires the usage of facial coverings according to ADH guidance in an effort to help curb the spread of Covid-19, in particular to protect the most vulnerable members of our community, as well as to ensure that the hard won progress made by the citizens of Arkansas in reopening our shared economy is preserved.

SECTION 2: That the City of North Little Rock has hereby determined that local law enforcement and other city officials will act in a support capacity to local businesses that wish to enforce the use of masks upon their premises. Law enforcement, acting in such a support capacity, shall educate and encourage members of the public who decline to wear facial coverings regarding the efficacy of wearing such coverings according to the ADH guidance on facial coverings released on June 19, 2020. Law enforcement may additionally act in a support capacity to local businesses by educating individuals who decline to comply with the facial covering requirement of any local business that the individual must abide by that requirement or leave the premises.

SECTION 3: That the North Little Rock Chamber of Commerce has expressed its willingness to assist in disseminating the information in this Ordinance to all member businesses located in the City of North Little Rock.

SECTION 4: That all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of the conflict.

SECTION 5: That the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby declared to be severable, and if any section, phrase or provision shall be declared or held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the remainder of the sections, phrases or provisions.

SECTION 6: That it is hereby found and determined that there is a need for immediate response to the COVID-19 pandemic based upon the infectious rate of COVID-19, the rapid use of protective equipment across all sectors, the fatality rate, and the fatality rate if the virus is left unchecked, and that the provisions of this Ordinance are necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health, safety and welfare. THEREFORE, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, and this Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval.

PASSED:

APPROVED:

Mayor Joe A. Smith

SPONSOR:

Joe A. Smith
Mayor Joe A. Smith *by AF*

ATTEST:

Diane Whitbey, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Amy Beckman
Amy Beckman, Fields, City Attorney

PREPARED BY THE OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY/kt

FILED	<u>11:05</u>	A.M.	___	P.M.
By	<u>A. Fields</u>			
DATE	<u>7-7-20</u>			
Diane Whitbey, City Clerk and Collector North Little Rock, Arkansas				
RECEIVED BY	<u>S. Yssery</u>			