AN ADVISORY PROCLAMATION TO ESTABLISH THE “SAFER AT HOME” INITIATIVE FOR THE CITY OF TALLADEGA DURING THE COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, Mayor Timothy Ragland of the City of Talladega recognizes the emergency declarations of the President of the United States and the Governor of the State of Alabama; and,

WHEREAS, the State Health Officer has issued orders for the closing of certain businesses and the limitations on the operation of essential businesses; and,

WHEREAS, Mayor Ragland finds that an emergency of unprecedented size resulting from the natural cause of community spread of a novel human coronavirus disease, COVID-19, is likely to occur in the City of Talladega; and,

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a disease caused by a novel coronavirus, previously unknown in humans, and causes upper-respiratory tract illnesses that can range from mild to severe, spread quickly, and may cause death, particularly in older adults and persons with certain chronic medical conditions, and,

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 to be a global pandemic as of March 15, 2020; and,

WHEREAS, the spread and effect of COVID-19 has created a humanitarian crisis of unanticipated proportions; and,

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, President Donald Trump declared a national emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic, restricting international travel to prevent spread of the disease; and,

WHEREAS, Governor Kay Ivey declared a state of emergency for the State of Alabama on March 13, 2020; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Talladega is threatened by COVID-19 because of the extraordinary 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 City; and

WHEREAS, although under investigation and development, no vaccine or drug is currently available to cure or combat COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, as of March 31, 2020, Alabama has 961 identified cases of coronavirus, including 6 in Talladega County, where the City of Talladega is located; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor finds that it is in the best interest of the public peace, health, and safety, and to preserve the lives of citizens of the City of Talladega, to advise the citizens of Talladega to practice the guidelines to further the purposes of the measures that have been ordered to date to control community spread of COVID-19 in the City of Talladega.

SECTION 1.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED by the Mayor of the City of Talladega that the “Safer at home” initiative, which establishes a public safety plan, is hereby instituted in the City of Talladega. This initiative will continue in effect until 12:00 am (midnight) April 30, 2020, unless it is determined that the emergency conditions no longer exist prior to that date but may be extended if the duration of the emergency conditions continue beyond that date.

(a) This initiative applies to all persons within the City of Talladega. During such initiative, all persons are asked to not be or remain in public places and, residents of the City of Talladega are asked to remain in their places of residence, except as further provided in subsection (d) of this initiative.

This initiative does not apply to:

1. public safety or emergency service activities, including but not limited to law enforcement, fire and rescue services, and emergency management agencies
2. first responders, crisis intervention workers, public health workers, emergency management personnel, emergency dispatchers, law enforcement personnel, and related contractors
3. persons employed by or contracted to utilities, cable, and telecommunications companies and engaged in activities necessary to maintain or restore utility, cable, and telecommunications services
4. persons providing fire, police, sanitation, security, emergency and hospital services, food delivery services and other deliveries of merchandise or mail
5. persons seeking essential services or commodities; persons who are vulnerable to the most serious effects of the COVID-19 disease should remain at home unless seeking medical treatment
6. persons supplying or restocking businesses in order to provide essential services or products, i.e., home improvement, groceries, fuel delivery locations, pharmacies or other retailers offering emergency supplies, transportation of fuels, movement of equipment and personnel for the provision of humanitarian support, and movement of equipment necessary for the protection of critical infrastructure or public safety
7. persons employed by the federal, state, county, or city government or their agencies working within the course and scope of their public service employment. Such employees should follow any current or future directives regarding the performance of their duties, including working from home, issued by their respective employers.
8. persons experiencing homelessness within the City.

(b) All businesses within the City of Talladega are asked to comply with the Order of the State Health Officer, or as may be amended, relating to the closing of nonessential businesses. The restrictions detailed in the Orders of the State Health Officer are hereby adopted in this initiative.

(c) All public and private gatherings of 10 or more persons or of any size where a consistent distance of at least six feet cannot be maintained are discouraged, except as to those exempted activities further provided in this ordinance. This provision does not apply to gatherings within a single household or living unit.

(d) Exceptions. People should leave their residence while this initiative is in effect only to engage in the following activities:

(l) Essential Activities. To engage in certain essential activities, including, without limitation, visiting a health or veterinary care professional, obtaining medical supplies or medication, obtaining grocery items (including, without limitation, canned food, dry goods, fresh fruits and vegetables, pet supplies, fresh or frozen meats, fish, and poultry, any other household consumer products and products necessary to maintain the safety and sanitation of residences and other buildings) for their household or to deliver to others, or for legally mandated government purposes. Additionally, any travel related to (a) providing care for minors, the elderly, dependents, persons with disabilities, or other vulnerable persons; (b) returning to one’s place of residence from outside the City; (c) traveling to one’s place of residence located outside the
City; (d) traveling through the City from one location outside the City to another location outside the City; (e) compliance with an order of law enforcement or court are exempt from this initiative; (f) traveling to or from a place of business which provides essential services by owners and employees of such business; or (g) legally mandated government purposes. Persons engaging in these essential activities should maintain reasonable social distancing practices. This includes maintaining a distance of at least six feet away from others, frequently washing hands with soap and water for at least twenty seconds or using hand sanitizer, covering coughs or sneezes (into the sleeve or elbow, not hands), regularly cleaning high-touch surfaces, and not shaking hands. These Essential Activities are subject to change and are not limited to the activities listed in this subsection. Individuals should use reasonable judgment as it relates to the many and various circumstances during this time. At the very least, businesses that have not been declared nonessential by the State Health Officer, as applicable, that remain open should implement consistent social distancing practices of six feet between persons to avoid the spread of COVID-19.

(ii) Outdoor Activities. To engage in outdoor activity and recreation, provided that the recreational activity does not involve physical contact with other persons and individuals comply with social distancing constraints, including, without limitation, walking, hiking, running, cycling, use of scooters, roller skates, skateboards, or other personal mobility devices; or travel in a vehicle with household members to a location where it is possible to walk, hike, run or ride a bike, or operate personal mobility devices while maintaining social distancing practices. Indoor and outdoor playgrounds for children, except those located within childcare centers, should be closed for all purposes.

(iii) Work in Support of Essential Activities. To perform work providing essential products and services or to carry out activities otherwise specifically mentioned in this initiative.

(iv) To care for or support a friend, family member, or pet in another household.

(v) Provision of essential goods and services. This includes those businesses and activities deemed essential by the Order of the Chief Health Officer.

(vi) Providing any services, goods, or work necessary to build, operate, maintain or manufacture essential infrastructure, including without limitation construction of commercial, office and institutional buildings, residential buildings and housing; airport operations, food supply, concessions, and construction; port operations and construction; water, sewer, gas, electrical, oil extraction and refining; roads and highways, public transportation and rail; solid waste collection and removal; flood control and watershed protection; internet and telecommunications systems (including the provision of essential global, national, and local infrastructure for computing services, business infrastructure, communications, and web-based services); and manufacturing and distribution companies deemed essential to the supply chains of the industries referenced in this Paragraph, provided that they carry out those services and that work in compliance with social distancing practices as prescribed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the State Health Officer, to the extent possible.

UNTO THIS, I hereby set my hand and the great seal of the City of Talladega, Alabama, on this the 1st day of April, two thousand and twenty.

[Signature]

Mayor Timothy Nagland