



**CITY OF WEST PALM BEACH  
EXECUTIVE ORDER 2020-13  
NOVEL CORONAVIRUS, COVID-19  
(Amending 2020-03 - Park Closures)**

**WHEREAS**, the Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a severe acute respiratory illness that can spread among humans through respiratory transmission and presents with symptoms similar to those of influenza; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization designated COVID-19, outbreak a Public Health Emergency of International Concern; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 31, 2020, the United States Health and Human Services Secretary, Alex M. Azar II, declared a public health emergency for the entire United States to aid the nation's healthcare community in responding to COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 9, 2020, Governor Ron DeSantis executed Executive Order Number 20-52, declared a State of Emergency in the State of Florida regarding COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020, President Donald Trump declared a national emergency in response to COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 17, 2020, Mayor Keith A. James executed a Declaration of State of Local Emergency; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 24, 2020, Mayor Keith A. James executed an Executive Order limiting use of City of West Palm Beach Parks to passive activities and closing parks to recreational activities including but not limited to, basketball courts, multipurpose sports fields, tennis courts, dog parks and playgrounds; and

**WHEREAS**, on April 1, 2020, Governor Ron DeSantis issued a Safer At Home Order, Executive Order Number 20-91, mandating that all persons in Florida should limit their movements and personal interactions outside of their home to only those necessary to obtain or provide essential services or conduct essential activities; and

**WHEREAS**, on April 16, 2020, President Donald J. Trump issued the White House's Guidelines for Opening Up America Again, a three-phased approach based on the advice of public health experts, to help state and local officials when reopening their economies, getting people back to work, and continuing to protect American lives; and

**WHEREAS**, Palm Beach County has entered Emergency Order Number 5 as amended by Emergency Order Number 7 providing for a phased restart of boating and marine activities, golf courses, public parks and natural areas, tennis courts and community pools;

**WHEREAS**, section 252.46, Florida Statutes, provides that any county or municipality created pursuant to law are authorized and empowered to make, amend, and rescind such orders and rules as are necessary for emergency management purposes and to supplement the carrying out of the State Emergency Management Act which includes response, recovery and mitigation necessary in responding to COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, section 2-2 of the City of West Palm Beach Code of Ordinances authorizes the Mayor to exercise the emergency powers conferred by chapter 252 of Florida Statutes; and

**WHEREAS**, in addition to the powers conferred by chapter 252, Florida Statutes, section 2-3(2) of the City of West Palm Beach Code of Ordinances permits the waiver of procedures and formalities otherwise required by law or ordinance pertaining to the performance of public work and taking whatever prudent action is necessary to ensure the health, safety and welfare of the community; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of West Palm Beach amending Executive Order No. 2020-03 to specify which City of West Palm Beach Park and Recreation facilities are open; and

**WHEREAS**, it is necessary and appropriate to take additional action to ensure that recreational facilities and parks operate successfully during the COVID-19 economic recovery while following CDC guidelines and other measures to maintain public safety.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Keith A. James, Mayor of the City of West Pam Beach, Florida, by the authority vested in me pursuant to Chapters 166 and 252 of the Florida Statutes and the City of West Palm Beach Charter and Code of Ordinances, do hereby order:

Section 1.     City Parks and Park Facilities. The City of West Palm Beach parks, including dog parks, are open for passive activities only. All other park facilities including, but not limited to, aquatic centers, community centers, basketball courts, multipurpose sports fields, and playgrounds remain closed.

Section 2.     Tennis and Racquet Ball. The City of West Palm Beach racquet ball courts are open. Tennis courts are also open for doubles play. Individual tennis instruction may be conducted provided on a one-to-one basis only. All racquet ball and tennis participants are required to follow CDC guidelines and social distancing requirements.

Section 3.     Boat Ramps, Fishing and Docks. The City of West Palm Beach Boat Ramps are open and its docks are open for day docking and for fishing provided social distancing guidelines are followed.

Section 4.     The Mayor may amend provisions of this Order by written notice to the City Clerk.

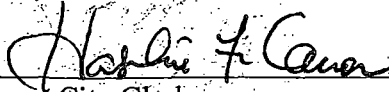
Section 5. The City of West Palm Beach Police Department may use its authorities under Florida law to implement and enforce the provisions of this Order and shall take all measures necessary to protect the public health, safety and welfare.

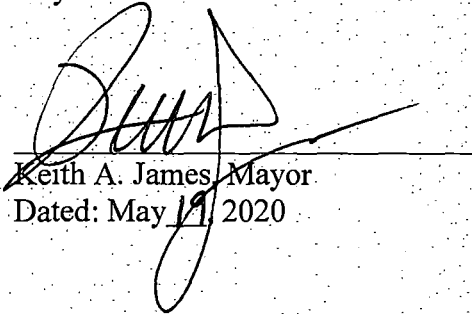
Section 6. This Order shall terminate when the on the expiration of the existing City of West Palm Beach State of Local Emergency, except that if such State of Local Emergency is extended, this Order shall also be deemed to extend for the duration of such extension. This Order may also be cancelled earlier by action of the Mayor.

Section 7. This Order shall be effective immediately.

[SEAL]

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Keith A. James Mayor  
Dated: May 19, 2020

CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE  
Approved as to form and legality  
By: KLR