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 16, 2020, President Donald J. Trump and the CDC issued guidance entitled “15 Days to Slow the Spread” advising individuals to adopt far-reaching social distancing measures which includes avoiding gathering of more than 10 people; and

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

WHEREAS, on March 31, 2020, the President updated the guidance and issued Coronavirus Guidelines for America entitled “30 Days to Slow the Spread”, and urged Americans to continue to adhere to the guidelines and expand community mitigation efforts; and

WHEREAS, on April 1, 2020, Governor Ron DeSantis entered Executive Order Number 20-91, as amended by Executive Order Number 20-92, limiting all person’s movement in Florida outside of their homes to only those necessary to obtain or provide essential services or to conduct essential activities; and

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 2-2-2 of the City of West Palm Beach Code of Ordinances authorizes the Mayor to exercise 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, a policy requiring all visitors to any City of West Palm Beach facility to do so by appointment only is necessary to reduce visitor’s movement outside their homes and the potential spread of COVID-19 and to protect City employees and visitors.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Keith A. James, Mayor of the City of West Palm 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 of West Palm Beach facilities are open to the public by appointment only. All visitors wishing to schedule an appointment may do so by using the contact information attached to this Executive Order. While encouraged, this provision does not mandate an appointment to request public records or to attend a public meeting.

Section 2. 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 measures necessary to protect the public health, safety and welfare.

Section 3. The Mayor may amend provisions of this Order by written notice to the City Clerk.

Section 4. The provisions of this Order shall serve as minimum standards.

Section 5. The City of West Palm Beach Police Department shall use its authorities under Florida law to implement and enforce the provisions of this Order.

Section 6. This Order shall terminate upon 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 be cancelled earlier by action of the Mayor.

This Order shall be effective Monday, April 6, 2020 at 8:00 a.m.

[SEAL]

Keith A. James, Mayor
Dated: April 3, 2020

ATTEST:

City Clerk

CITY ATTORNEY’S OFFICE
Approved as to form and legal sufficiency
By: [Signature]
Date: 4/13/20
Benefits/Training (561) 494-1016
Building (561) 805-6700
City Administration (561) 822-1400
City Attorney (561) 822-1350
City Clerk (561) 822-1210
Code Enforcement (561) 822-1465
Commission Office (561) 822-1391
Engineering Services (561) 494 1063 or (561) 822 1398
Finance Department (561) 822-1327
Fire (561) 804-4700
Housing and Community Development (561) 822-1250
HR General (561) 494-1000
Mayor’s Office (561) 822-1400
Parking Administration (561) 822-1499 / 1498
Parks and Recreation Department (561) 804-4900
Planning and Zoning (561) 822-1461
Police (561) 822-1900
Public Utilities Administration (561) 494-1060 or (561)822-2284
Recruitment & Employee Relations (561) 494-1011
Risk Management (561) 494-1130
Sanitation (561) 822-2075
Street Maintenance & Lighting (561) 822-2085
Sustainability (561) 358-1445
Utilities Customer Service/billing (561) 822-2216