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, 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 emergency powers conferred by chapter 252 of Florida Statutes; and

WHEREAS, Section 66-96 of the Code of Ordinances provides that all procurement contracts and work orders shall be signed by the mayor; and no other city officer, employee or other person shall sign any procurement contract or work order on behalf of the City; 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 entering into contracts and taking whatever prudent action is necessary to ensure the health safety and welfare of the community; and

WHEREAS, protection of the City’s employees will require the ability to execute contracts and work orders for sanitizing of City facilities and vehicles on an expedited basis; and

WHEREAS, it is advisable to streamline the execution of procurement contracts for sanitizing City facilities and vehicles for the protection of City employees.

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. I hereby suspend all provisions contained in the City of West Palm Beach Code of Ordinances that require that all procurement contracts and work orders directly related to COVID-19 response, including such contracts or work orders for the sanitization of City buildings, facilities and vehicles, may be signed or approved electronically by the applicable Department Director.

Section 2. A copy of every procurement contract or work order signed by a Department Director pursuant to this Executive Order shall be provided to the Office of the City Attorney at LegalServices@wpb.org, who shall ensure that copies of such documents are forwarded to the City Clerk for retention as a public record.

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

Section 4. 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.

Section 5. This Order shall be effective immediately.

[SEAL]

Keith A. James, Mayor
Dated: April 14, 2020

ATTEST:

City Clerk

CITY ATTORNEY’S OFFICE
Approved as to form and legality
By: [Signature]