



City of Branson
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MEDIA RELEASE

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Mayor Issues Emergency Proclamation

BRANSON, Mo – After Missouri Governor Mike Parson declared a State of Emergency for the State of Missouri and under the request of the City’s Emergency Management Director, Branson Mayor Edd Akers has issued an Emergency Proclamation for the City of Branson.

The purpose of issuing this Emergency Proclamation is to minimize suffering and promote the general life, health, and safety of residents whose lives will be affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Issuing an Emergency Proclamation means, under the authority granted by Section 34-24 of the Branson Municipal Code the City Administrator and Emergency Management Director may initiate specific actions as they relate to this emergency event including the potential for the recoupment of expenses and a more rapid response during this time of need.

The Emergency Proclamation will have no effect on business operations at this time. Any action involving the closing of businesses, curfews or other containment or quarantine actions would have to go before the Board of Aldermen during a public meeting and be passed by ordinance.

The Mayor’s complete Emergency Proclamation of the City of Branson is attached.

You can find more details about what an Emergency Proclamation is and what it does, in the Branson Municipal Code Section 34 on our website at www.bransonmo.gov. To access the Branson Municipal Code, scroll down to the bottom of our website and click on “Municipal Code” under “Quick Links.”

The City of Branson will continue to work in coordination with our partner agencies, as well as the state and federal government, to monitor this evolving situation and to ensure our response actions are based on the latest facts. We will

communicate updates to the Branson community as the situation changes and as we make additional decisions regarding our local response. For these updates, go to the “Coronavirus Updates” bar on the top of our website.

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EMERGENCY PROCLAMATION OF THE CITY OF BRANSON

WHEREAS, In December 2019, a new coronavirus known as SARS-CoV-2 was first detected in Wuhan, Hubei Province, People’s Republic of China, causing outbreaks of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) that has now spread globally and into the United States; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization characterized COVID-19 as a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, President Donald Trump, under the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including sections 201 and 301 of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.) and consistent with section 1135 of the Social Security Act (SSA), as amended (42 U.S.C. 1320b-5), found and proclaimed that that the COVID-19 outbreak in the United States constitutes a national emergency; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, Governor Mike Parsons, signed Executive Order 20-02 declaring a state of emergency in the state of Missouri in response to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 has spread rapidly amongst the population of the United States with three reported cases in Greene County, Missouri as of March 16, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the inevitability exists that COVID-19 will spread into Taney County and affect the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the City of Branson, Missouri; and

WHEREAS, Section 44.080 of the Missouri Revised Statutes provides for the creation of a local emergency management organization; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 34 of the Branson Municipal Code has established an Emergency Management and Services procedure for the City of Branson under the authority granted to the City of Branson by Chapter 44 of the Missouri Revised Statutes; and

WHEREAS, the City’s Emergency Management Director has requested that the provisions of Chapter 34 of the Branson Municipal Code be activated.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, E. Edd Akers, Mayor of the City of Branson, Missouri in accordance with the powers set forth in Chapter 34 of the Branson Municipal Code and Chapter 44 of the Missouri Revised Statutes, hereby proclaim as follows:

1. There exists within the City of Branson inevitable risks to the life, health, and safety of the citizens of the City of Branson as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

2. Because of the possibility of such an emergency, and to speed efforts to deal with issues created by this event, I hereby invoke the powers vested in my office by Chapter 34 Section 21 of the Branson Municipal Code, and the City's Emergency Management and Services Plan in order to minimize suffering and promote the general life, health, and safety of residents whose lives will be effected by the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. Under the authority granted by Section 34-24 of the Branson Municipal Code the City Administrator and Emergency Management Director may initiate the following actions as they relate to this emergency event:
 - a. Expend funds, make contracts, obtain and distribute equipment, materials and supplies for emergency management purposes; provide for the health and safety of persons, including emergency assistance to victims of an enemy attack and the safety of property; direct and coordinate the development of disaster plans and programs in accordance with the plans of the federal and state emergency management services; provided the emergency purchases code is followed.
 - b. May appoint, provide or remove rescue teams, auxiliary fire and police personnel and other emergency operations teams, units or personnel who may serve without compensation.
 - c. Accept services, materials, equipment, supplies or funds granted or loaned by the federal, state and local governments for emergency planning and operations purposes.
 - d. Obtain vital supplies, equipment and other properties found lacking for the protection of life and property of the people, and bind the city for the fair value; and if required, immediately commandeer such property for public use.
 - e. Require emergency services of any employees under his or the city administrator's control.
 - f. Requisition the necessary material of city departments.
 - g. Make studies and surveys of the industries, resources and facilities in the city, as may be necessary to ascertain the capabilities of the city for emergency management and to plan for the most efficient use.
 - h. Delegate duties as are authorized for the purpose of implementing and directing the emergency management program.
 - i. Implement and utilize other duties, authorities and powers provided by local, state and federal laws.

4. Following the passage of this emergency event, the Emergency Management coordinator will report back to the Board of Aldermen at the first available public meeting on the actions taken under the color of this proclamation.
5. This proclamation is effective immediately and shall remain in effect until the greater of May 15, 2020 or the termination date of Missouri Governor Parson's Executive Order 20-02 if said order is extended in whole or in part.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand at 5:37 hours on this 17th day of March, 2020. PM

E. Edd Akers

E. Edd Akers
Mayor

ATTEST:

Lisa K Westfall

Lisa K Westfall
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Chris Lebeck #51831 3/17/20

Chris Lebeck #51831
City Attorney

