

# Proclamation and Request for Governor to Declare a State of Emergency

## A PROCLAMATION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF THATCHER, GRAHAM COUNTY, ARIZONA, TO DECLARE A STATE OF EMERGENCY DUE TO THE CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC.

**WHEREAS**, A.R.S. 26-311 authorizes the Mayor of the Town of Thatcher, Arizona and his/her designee to proclaim the existence or threatened existence of a local emergency when the Town of Thatcher is affected or likely to be affected by a public calamity; and

**WHEREAS**, the novel Coronavirus, COVID-19, was first detected in China in December 2019, and the centers for disease control (CDC) considers this virus to be a significant public health threat that has, and continues to spread globally; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 30, 2020 the World Health Organization declared the COVID-19 illness a public health emergency of international concern and on January 31, 2020 the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services declared a public health emergency due to the COVID-19 illness; and

**WHEREAS**, on February 26, 2020 the COVID-19 Incident Command Team expanded as resource needs increased in reference to COVID-19; to include enhanced communications to the public through press release, public meetings, cooperators meetings and development of an informational website; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town continues to plan and prepare for event and facility closures, modified staffing plans, work from home programs, and enhanced communications to employees to ensure effective continuity of Operations of Town Government through the activation of the Town Emergency Operations Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, prudence requires that precautionary measures be taken proactively due to the widespread nature of COVID-19 and it's threat to public health, safety, and welfare as referenced in the Governor's Declaration of Emergency, and that impacts from the same threaten public health and safety and the economic recovery of Thatcher; and

**WHEREAS**, the widespread nature of COVID-19 constitutes an immediate threat to life, public health, safety, and welfare, and to the economic recovery of Thatcher; and

**WHEREAS**, the above facts give credence to the conditions of extreme peril and public health emergency; and the declaration of a local emergency will enable the Town of Thatcher to provide emergency resources, request additional resources and receive mutual aid from other political sub-divisions and entities.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED** that a local emergency now exists in the Town of Thatcher, and

**IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED** that during the existence of said local emergency, the powers, functions, and duties of the emergency organization of this Town shall be those prescribed by state law, by ordinances, and resolutions of the Town of Thatcher.

Citizens are urged to cooperate with this emergency declaration and, to every degree possible, abide by the safety announcements, advisories, and restrictions established by the Graham County Health Department and to cooperate with the town's public safety agencies and emergency services personnel.

Town facilities may remain open for the time being but programs, events, and activities that are not essential will be suspended until further notice. Further details regarding suspended programs, events, and activities will be forthcoming.


Closures of Town facilities may occur as needed in the future and the Town will monitor those needs on an ongoing basis.

**PURSUANT TO A.R.S. 38-431.02** as amended, **NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** to the general public that during the declared State of Emergency a possible quorum of the Town of Thatcher Town Council may be in attendance during meetings and times of need, however, no formal discussion/action will be taken by members in their role as the Thatcher Town Council.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Town Council of the Town of Thatcher, Graham County, Arizona, this 16<sup>th</sup> day of March 2020.

  
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Aaron Allen, Vice Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Michelle Mortensen, Deputy Clerk