

CITY OF MYRTLE BEACH
COUNTY OF HORRY
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

DECLARING MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND AN
EXTRAORDINARY EVENT AND AUTHORIZING
THE CITY MANAGER TO TAKE ALL STEPS
NECESSARY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF
PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE.

WHEREAS, the City of Myrtle Beach is responsible for the safety and well-being of its residents and visitors, and the security of its homes and its businesses, especially during extraordinary events, which would be special events if managed and permitted, but through which, by their unorganized attendance, congestion, and sometimes unlawful behavior, could threaten the peace and welfare of individuals, businesses and the community at large; and

WHEREAS, activity observed the previous weekend created a public safety danger and provides reason to believe that such behavior will continue and will continue to create a threat to public safety. Video recordings show public disorder and raise particular safety concerns related to the use of golf carts and mopeds; and

WHEREAS, large crowds on Ocean Boulevard exhibited a disregard for traffic safety laws as well as social distancing guidelines necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the state of South Carolina is still under a state of emergency related to COVID-19 which the governor renewed as recently as May 12, 2020. At that time, the governor recognized the need to take extraordinary measures "to meet the unprecedented threat posed by COVID-19 and the evolving nature and scope of this public health emergency;" and

WHEREAS, a state of civil emergency also exists in the City of Myrtle Beach which declaration was recently renewed by Mayor Brenda Bethune on May 12, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the public safety and public health risks will be magnified during the upcoming weekend by a greater number of visitors expected to arrive for the holiday weekend; and

WHEREAS, the city's emergency personnel, including Police, Fire, EMS, Parks and Public Works staff, are put in harm's way due to the number of visitors occupying the area in and around Ocean Boulevard and the behavior of those visitors. This risk of harm is compounded by the risk of contracting the coronavirus; and

WHEREAS, the capacity of public spaces, including streets and sidewalks, also is limited, and the number of visitors expected this holiday weekend can exceed that capacity in

1 many locations, preventing a timely response to emergencies in which lives are at stake;
2 and
3

4 WHEREAS, the City's ability to manage the crowd and the associated demand on city
5 resources will be further compromised because cooperating agencies that historically
6 offer assistance to the City are unable to offer assistance this year due to budget cuts,
7 furloughs and continued health concerns related to COVID-19; and
8

9 WHEREAS, the increased number of visitors is expected to overwhelm the community
10 and its resources by engendering disorder on the public streets and rights-of-way, by
11 placing extreme burdens on the City's law enforcement, fire protection, emergency
12 services, traffic management, and other public services, and by causing residents and
13 visitors to fear for their health and safety; and
14

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND DECLARED that the Memorial Day Weekend
16 commencing Friday, May 22, 2020 at 12:01 a.m. and concluding Monday, May 25, 2020
17 at 11:59 p.m. is an extraordinary event due to its anticipated impact.
18

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager, or designee(s), is vested with the full
20 authority enumerated in Division 6 of Chapter 19 of the Myrtle Beach Code of
21 Ordinances and is directed to exercise such authority as necessary to promote public
22 health, safety, welfare and order, and to protect lives, minimize criminal activity, and
23 maximize the efficiency of providing municipal services;
24

25 IT IS FURTHER RECOGNIZED that, in light of the current state of emergency, the City
26 Manager is vested with additional authority pursuant to Chapter 8 of the Myrtle Beach
27 Code of Ordinances.
28

29 Further, the violation of any provision of this division, or in any rule, regulation, order
30 or traffic device or restriction promulgated by any officer or agency of the city under
31 authority duly vested in him is declared to be unlawful as a misdemeanor, and shall be
32 punished by a fine not exceeding \$500.00 or by imprisonment for a term not exceeding
33 30 days or both, in the discretion of the judge of the municipal court. Each incident of
34 violation, rather than each day of violations, of any provision of this Code or of any
35 such ordinance, resolution, rule, regulation or order shall constitute a
36 separate offense.
37

38 Further, while any person who violates any provision of the Code may be issued a
39 warning, citation or notice that the person is in violation of the Code within the
40 discretion of law enforcement, and while any penalty for conviction of a violation lies
41 solely within the discretion of the court, it is the will of City Council that the protection
42 and preservation of the public health, safety and welfare of the public and first
43 responders be paramount, and that enforcement of the imposed restrictions herein be
44 made immediately effective so that the violations shall cease, and public peace and
45 order be maintained.
46

1 Signed and sealed this 21st day of May, 2020.

2
3
4 ATTEST:


BRENDA BETHUNE, MAYOR

5
6
7
8 
JENNIFER STANFORD, CITY CLERK