

Proclamation

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar declared a public health emergency for COVID-19, beginning on January 27, 2020; and,

WHEREAS, on February 28, 2020, a student at Henry M. Jackson High School in Mill Creek was diagnosed with the COVID-19 virus; and,

WHEREAS, on February 29, 2020, Governor Jay Inslee issued Proclamation 20-05 proclaiming that a State of Emergency exists in all counties of the state of Washington due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus and directed that the plans and procedures of the Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan be implemented; and,

WHEREAS, the Governor directed state agencies and departments to utilize state resources and to do everything reasonably possible to assist affected political subdivisions in an effort to respond to and recover from the outbreak; and,

WHEREAS, subsequently, the Governor issued additional Proclamations directed at protecting public health and safety including Proclamation 20-28, prohibiting public gatherings and requiring all public meetings to be held remotely; and

WHEREAS, on January 18, 2021, the Washington Legislature adopted Senate Concurrent Resolution 8402, providing for the continuation of 26 proclamations issued by the Governor until the termination of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 State of Emergency or until rescinded by gubernatorial or legislative action including Proclamation 20-28 and its subsequent versions; and

WHEREAS, currently Proclamation 20-28.14 continues to require that all public meetings must be held remotely; and

WHEREAS, RCW 38.52.010(9)(a) defines emergencies and disasters to include events or circumstances which demand action to preserve public health; and,

WHEREAS, RCW 38.52.070 grants political subdivisions of the state that have approved emergency management plans to conduct emergency management of incidents involving emergencies or disasters; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Mill Creek has adopted an emergency management plan set forth in Mill Creek Municipal Code (“MCMC”) Section 8.08.080; and,

WHEREAS, MCMC Section 8.08.040 defines an “emergency or disaster” as an event or set of circumstances which among other things “demand immediate action to preserve public health, protect life...or reaches such a dimension or degree of destructiveness as to warrant the city manager proclaiming the existence of a disaster or the Governor declaring a state of emergency with appropriate local and state statutes”; and,

WHEREAS, the City Manager is designated specific powers during an emergency, as set forth in MCMC 8.08.090; and

WHEREAS, MCMC 8.08.100 empowers the City Manager to proclaim the existence or threatened existence of a disaster and termination thereof, if the Mill Creek City Council is in session, or to issue such proclamation, if the Mill Creek City Council is not in session, subject to confirmation by the Mill Creek City Council at the earliest practicable time; and

WHEREAS, the City of Mill Creek's Comprehensive Management Plan specifically states that it is the responsibility of the City Manager to proclaim local emergencies; and,

WHEREAS, the City Manager for the City of Mill Creek proclaimed that effective February 29, 2020, consistent with Proclamation 20-05 issued by Governor Inslee, the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus constituted an emergency as defined by RCW 38.52.010(9)(a) and MCMC Section 8.08.040 and necessitated the utilization of emergency powers granted under RCW 38.52.070 and MCMC 8.08.100; and

FURTHER, in light of the Governor's and the Legislature's continuation of the emergency proclamations issued by the Governor limiting public gatherings and requiring all public meetings to be held remotely, and in light of the continued recommendations for social distancing issued by Centers for Disease Control, Washington Department of Health, and Snohomish Health District, the City of Mill Creek will continue to restrict access to City Hall to the general public in an effort to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus. The closure is in effect through April 6, 2021 unless circumstance permit an earlier opening.

The City of Mill Creek will continue essential municipal government operations during this health crisis while prioritizing the safety of residents and employees.

Signed this 2 day of March 2021.



Michael Ciaravino, City Manager