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*****PRESS RELEASE*****

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUMTER COUNTY, GEORGIA – Today, Sumter County Board of Commissioners and Sumter County Emergency Management Director, issued a county wide mandatory curfew in the wake of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic and under the Authority of the Georgia Emergency Management Act of 1981. This resolution is in effect until terminated by the Sumter County Board of Commissioners and Sumter County Emergency Management Director.

Any violation of this resolution shall be punishable by a fine or a misdemeanor, pursuant to Section 1-11 of the Code of Ordinances of Sumter County. The Sheriff of Sumter County or his lawful deputies, shall be authorized to enforce this Order.

1. **Mandatory Curfew:** A mandatory curfew shall be effective between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. during which all persons within the County shall remain at home. The curfew shall not apply to anyone performing emergency or first responder services, essential government services, law enforcement services, rescue services, safety services, health services, essential utility services, or military services. The curfew shall also not apply to anyone traveling to or from or engaging in lawful employment. During the hours of the curfew, convenience stores and gas stations shall be permitted to sell gas via self-service at the pumps to those individuals who are lawfully exempted from the curfew as provided in this section, but shall not otherwise be open for business. The Emergency Management Director may in his reasonable discretion grant further exemptions.

Voluntary Shelter at Home: The Sumter County Board of Commissioners and Emergency Management Director request that all persons within the County voluntarily shelter at home and not leave their homes or loiter, wander, stroll, or play in any public place within the County, except as follows:

- When a person is on an errand necessitated due to an emergency;
- When a person is traveling or returning directly home from lawful employment or otherwise engaged in lawful employment that makes it necessary to leave home;
- When a person is engaged in interstate and intrastate vehicular travel through the County;
- When a person is procuring essential food or medicine or seeking essential medical care or providing essential food, medicine, or medical care to another person;
- Any other activity which may be exempted by the Sumter County Emergency Management Director in his reasonable discretion.

Possible Future Mandatory Shelter at Home Resolution: The Sumter County Board of Commissioners and the Emergency Management Director may issue a mandatory shelter at home order, with appropriate exemptions, in the near future should it become necessary to protect public health and safety and encourage all citizens and businesses to take immediate action to prepare in advance for such a contingency.



Social Distancing: Public or private gatherings of more than ten (10) persons are prohibited anywhere in Sumter County for the duration of this resolution. For the purposes of this resolution, a "gathering" is any indoor or outdoor event or assembly, subject to the exceptions and clarifications below, which brings together or is likely to bring together, ten (10) or more persons at the same time in a single room or other single confined or enclosed space, including, but not limited to, an auditorium, stadium (indoor or outdoor), tent, arena, event center, music venue, meeting hall, conference center, large cafeteria, restaurant, bar, club, convenience store, church, or any other confined indoor or confined outdoor space, to include birthday parties, family reunions, baby showers, weddings, and funerals. For purposes of this subsection, a "gathering" shall not include the following:

- Office space, public or private schools, child-care facilities, residential buildings, and any type of temporary shelter or housing;
- Hospitals, pharmacies, physicians' offices, medical clinics, and other medical facilities;
- Manufacturing facilities;
- Grocery stores, shopping centers, and other retail establishments; (excluding convenience stores)
- Government buildings and facilities.

No worship services shall be held in Sumter County if attended by more than ten (10) persons during the term of this resolution. This directive includes, but is not limited to, church services, funerals, church meals, weeknight services, Bible studies, Sunday schools, choir practices, church meetings, deacons' meetings, revivals, and any and all other such meetings related to worship or church services. Nothing in this resolution shall prohibit churches from live streaming services or holding services remotely as long as such live streaming or remote services do not result in more than ten (10) persons being present in violation of this resolution.

Indoor recreational facilities, including gyms, physical fitness centers, and dance studios shall be closed for the term of this resolution except where not more than ten (10) persons are present at any one time and each of such persons present has a prior appointment for the use of such facilities at such time.

Pool halls, playgrounds, parks, and theaters shall be closed for the term of this resolution.

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