

RESOLUTION  
NO. 2021-16

A RESOLUTION  
TO BE ENTITLED:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PENSACOLA, FLORIDA ENCOURAGING THE WEARING OF FACE COVERINGS IN PUBLIC SETTINGS AND WITHIN BUSINESSES WITHIN THE CITY OF PENSACOLA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2020, the Governor of Florida issued Executive Order Number 20-52, declaring a State of Emergency for the state of Florida related to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 18, 2020, the Mayor for the City of Pensacola issued Declaration of State of Emergency 20-01 declaring a state of emergency; and

WHEREAS, both the State's state of emergency order and the City's state of emergency declaration have been extended since the original issuances and currently are in effect; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 poses a health risk to the residents of the City, particularly elderly residents and those who are immunosuppressed or otherwise have high-risk medical conditions; and

WHEREAS, the City finds that COVID-19 presents a danger to the health, safety, and welfare of the public; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is spread through airborne transmission from individuals speaking, coughing, and sneezing, and infectious droplet nuclei can spread for a great distance, although how far is not fully understood at present; and

WHEREAS, since April of 2020, the City has proactively directed the implementation of numerous efforts, including an aggressive communications campaign, to encourage persons in the City to practice social distancing, wash and sanitize their hands, clean high touch surfaces, and wear face coverings as community mitigation strategies to decrease the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, Governor DeSantis has issued a series of executive orders to re-open Florida, and some of the restrictions to flatten the curve and slow the spread of COVID-19 have correspondingly been relaxed; and

WHEREAS, the re-opening of the State has led and will continue to lead to more contact between individuals and the potential for increased community spread of the disease; and

WHEREAS, the use of face coverings has been identified as a measure to assist in preventing individuals who may be shedding the COVID-19 virus from spreading it to other individuals; and

WHEREAS, to reduce the spread of the disease, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") recommends the use of cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain, such as inside businesses; and

WHEREAS, the CDC advises that the virus can spread between persons interacting in close proximity even if those persons are asymptomatic (persons not exhibiting symptoms) or are pre- symptomatic (persons who transmit the virus to others before showing symptoms); and

WHEREAS, the CDC recommends only simple cloth face coverings for the general population and not surgical masks or N-95 respirators because these are critical supplies that must continue to be reserved for healthcare workers and other medical first responders; and

WHEREAS, cloth face coverings are relatively inexpensive, readily available, and can be made from household items, for which the CDC provides online guidance for making " do-it- yourself " face coverings for people who cannot or do not want to buy one from the increasing sources producing and selling face coverings; and

WHEREAS, encouraging the continued use of face covering requirements along with immunizations will assist in the slowing of the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the City Council specifically finds that the continued wearing of face coverings serves the health, safety and welfare of the citizens;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PENSACOLA, FLORIDA:

SECTION 1. The City Council of the City of Pensacola encourages the citizens and visitors to wear face coverings when in public settings and businesses where social distancing of six feet is not possible or achievable.

SECTION 2. This resolution shall become effective on the fifth business day after adoption, unless otherwise provided, pursuant to Section 4.03(d) of the City Charter of the City of Pensacola.

Adopted: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
President of City Council

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk