

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE April 14, 2020

TO Honorable Members of the Dallas City Council

SUBJECT **Emergency Regulations**

Dear Colleagues:

My intention is – and has been since the beginning of this pandemic – for our city government’s operations to revert to normal, or as close to it as possible, as soon as it is safe to do so.

We have operated under a local state of disaster declaration since March 12, 2020. Since that date, I have issued four emergency orders in the interest of public health. These orders have restricted gatherings of people, created reporting requirements for hospitals regarding the availability of beds and ventilators and for laboratories regarding COVID-19 testing, and, at the city manager’s request, suspended nearly all City Council committee and board and commission meetings.

While we remain in a state of disaster, I now believe that the need for swift and unilateral action has passed, and that it is time to move toward resuming normal city government operations. Accordingly, I am hereby requesting that henceforth, for as long as we remain under a disaster declaration, our city manager issue any subsequent emergency regulations in consultation with the City Council.

Our city attorney has determined that under the Dallas City Code, the city manager has similar authority as that granted by state law to the mayor during a local state of disaster. This means the city manager has the authority to issue emergency regulations, and I believe that his doing so in consultation with the City Council most closely approximates the ordinary course of business in our particular form of city government.

I am hereby also requesting that the city manager work with the City Council to determine when and how to resume City Council committee and board and commission meetings. In addition, to promote transparency and to assist in the City of Dallas’s preparations for a possible surge in COVID-19 related hospitalizations, I am requesting that the reporting requirements related to hospitals and laboratories that I have put in place continue for as long as we remain in a state of disaster. I believe these reporting requirements have been, and will continue to be, crucial to the public’s understanding of our COVID-19 response and preparations.

Thank you all for your patience and understanding as we work through these difficult issues. I believe the emergency regulations that I have issued over the past month have helped to slow the spread of COVID-19 in our city, and I appreciate your support during these very challenging and unprecedented times.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Johnson', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Eric Johnson
Mayor

Cc: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
Chris Caso, City Attorney
Biliera Johnson, City Secretary