GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUANCE SYSTEM

Mayor's Order 2020-051
March 20, 2020

SUBJECT: Prohibition on Mass Gatherings During Public Health Emergency - Coronavirus (COVID-19)

ORIGINATING AGENCY: Office of the Mayor

By virtue of the authority vested in the Mayor of the District of Columbia pursuant to section 422(11) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973, 87 Stat. 790, Pub. L. No. 93-198, D.C. Official Code § 1-204.22(11) (2016 Repl.); section 5 of the District of Columbia Public Emergency Act of 1980, effective March 5, 1981, D.C. Law 3-149, D.C. Official Code § 7-2304 (2018 Repl.); section 5a of the District of Columbia Public Emergency Act of 1980, effective October 17, 2002, D.C. Law 3-149, D.C. Official Code § 7-2304.01 (2018 Repl.); section 1 of An Act To authorize the Commissioners of the District of Columbia to make regulations to prevent and control the spread of communicable and preventable diseases, approved August 11, 1939, 53 Stat. 1408, D.C. Official Code §§ 7-131 *et seq.* (2012 Repl.); the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs Civil Infractions Act of 1985, effective October 5, 1985, D.C. Law 6-42, D.C. Official Code §§ 2-1801.01 *et seq.*; section 6(c) of An Act To prescribe administrative procedures for the District of Columbia government, approved October 21, 1968, 82 Stat. 1203, D.C. Official Code § 2-505(c); D.C. Official Code 25-211(c) (2018 Supp.); D.C. Official Code § 47-2844 (2018 Supp.); Mayor's Order 2020-045, dated March 11, 2020; Mayor's Order 2020-046, dated March 11, 2020, and Mayor's Order 2020-050, dated March 20, 2020, it is hereby **ORDERED** that:

I. EMERGENCY MEASURES AND REQUIREMENTS

A. It is essential to slow the spread of COVID-19 in order to protect the ability of public and private health care providers to properly respond to patients and to safeguard the health, safety, and welfare of all persons in the District of Columbia.

B. Mass gatherings of fifty (50) or more persons are hereby prohibited anywhere in the District of Columbia.

C. For the purposes of this Order:

1. A "mass gathering" is any event or convening, subject to the exceptions and clarifications set forth below, that brings together or is likely to bring together fifty (50) or more persons at the same time in a single room or other single confined or enclosed space, such as, by way of example and without limitation, an auditorium, theater, stadium (indoor or outdoor), arena, event center, meeting hall, conference center, cafeteria, or any other confined

indoor or outdoor space.

2. A "mass gathering" includes any event in confined outdoor spaces, which means an outdoor space that:

   a. Is enclosed by a fence, physical barrier, or other structure; and

   b. Where people are present and they are within arm's length of one another for an extended period.

3. A "mass gathering" does not include:

   a. Gatherings of people in multiple, separate enclosed spaces in a single building, so long as fifty (50) people are not present in any single space at the same time;

   b. The use of enclosed spaces where fifty (50) or more people may be present at different times during the day, so long as fifty (50) or more people are not present in the space at the same time;

   c. Gatherings on property within the District of Columbia owned by the federal government.

   d. Spaces where fifty (50) or more persons may be in transit or waiting for transit such as buses, bus stops or depots, sluglines, subway cars, and subway stations (or shopping areas associated with the buildings housing those stations);

   e. Office space, hotels, or residential buildings. Hotels and residential buildings may remain open as residences for individuals, but gatherings of fifty (50) or more people within the office space, hotel, or residential building are prohibited;

   f. Grocery stores, shopping malls, or other retail establishments where large numbers of people may be present but it is unusual for them to be within arm's length of one another for an extended period; and

   g. Hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and other medical facilities.

D. Table service and service to standing customers at restaurants, bars, taverns, and multi-purpose facilities in the District of Columbia, including seated, fast food, and fast casual restaurants, is prohibited. Such businesses may operate only for takeout, "grab-and-go", and delivery operations.

E. Venues doing business as nightclubs, health clubs, health spas, massage establishments, and theaters in the District of Columbia shall continue their

suspension of operations, which was initially ordered on March 17, 2020.

F. All Department of Parks and Recreation ("DPR") facilities, including playgrounds, parks, and athletic fields, shall be closed to the public and no member of the public shall enter upon or into a DPR facility.

II. ENFORCEMENT

Any business or institution that in knowing violation of this emergency Order shall be subject to all civil, criminal and administrative penalties authorized by law, including sanctions, penalties, or summary suspension of licensure for violating D.C. Official Code § 7-2307 and D.C. Official Code § 47-2844(a).

III. SUPERSESSION

This Order supersedes Mayor's Order 2020-048, dated March 16, 2020, and the Department of Health's Notice of Emergency Rulemaking, adopted March 13, 2020, to prohibit mass gatherings.

IV. DURATION OF ORDER

This Order shall remain in effect through April 24, 2020.

V. EFFECTIVE DATE: This Order shall become effective immediately.

MURIEL BOWSER
MAYOR

ATTEST: Kimberly A. Bassett
KIMBERLY A. BASSETT
SECRETARY OF STATE OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA