GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUANCE SYSTEM

Mayor's Order 2020-048
March 16, 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; and Mayor's Order 2020-046, dated March 11, 2020, it is hereby **ORDERED** that:

I. EMERGENCY MEASURES AND REQUIREMENTS

A. It is essential that the spread of COVID-19 be slowed to protect the ability of public and private health care providers to handle the influx of new patients and to safeguard public health, safety, and welfare of the persons living or otherwise present in the District of Columbia.

B. In accordance with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), mass gatherings of more than fifty (50) persons are prohibited anywhere in the District of Columbia.

   a. 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, theatre, stadium (indoor or outdoor), arena or event center, meeting hall, conference center, large cafeteria, or any other confined indoor or confined

outdoor space.

b. A "Mass Gathering" includes any event in confined outdoor spaces, which means an outdoor space that (i) is enclosed by a fence, physical barrier, or other structure and (ii) where people are present and they are within arm's length of one another for extended periods.

c. A "Mass Gathering" does not include the following:

   i. 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 as the same time;

   ii. 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; and,

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

d. A "Mass Gathering" does not include the following:

   i. Public or private schools, including child care facilities, so long as children are in classrooms, not auditoriums or gymnasiums where more than fifty (50) children are present at one time;

   ii. Spaces where fifty (50) or more persons may be in transit or waiting for transit such as bus, ferry, sluglines, or subway stations or terminals (or shopping areas associated with the buildings housing those stations or terminals);

   iii. Office space, hotels, or residential buildings;

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

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

e. Gatherings of more than ten (10) people organized by an organization not listed in subsection I.B.d.v. that primarily serves, or targets, persons of sixty (60) or more years of age, persons who have serious medical conditions (including heart disease, diabetes, lung disease, asthma, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease), or persons who are immunocompromised, are prohibited in the District of Columbia.

C. Restaurants and Taverns licensed in the District of Columbia shall suspend table seating effective March 16, 2020, at 10:00 PM until April 1, 2020, at 6:00 AM.

D. Restaurants and Taverns may operate delivery and grab-and-go operations only, beginning on March 16, 2020, at 10:00 PM.

E. In order to comply with the Department of Health's Notice of Emergency Rulemaking, adopted March 13, 2020 to prohibit mass gatherings and this Order, venues doing business as nightclubs, multi-purpose facilities, health clubs, health spas, massage establishments, and theatres in the District of Columbia must suspend operations beginning on March 17, 2020.

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 or penalties for violating D.C. Official Code § 7-2307, and D.C. Official Code § 47-2844(a) including summary suspension of licensure.

III. DURATION OF ORDER

This Order shall remain in effect until March 31, 2020, and may be extended during a declaration of a public emergency.

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

MURIEL BOWSER
MAYOR

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