

**A PROCLAMATION BY THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF GULFPORT CONCERNING  
AN EXTENSION OF ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE ASSOCIATED WITH HURRICANE ZETA**

**Hurricane Zeta: Extension of Administrative Leave/Closure**

**WHEREAS**, as Mayor of the City of Gulfport, Mississippi, the undersigned declared and proclaimed that a “state of emergency” existed in the City, as of 8:00 p.m., central time, on October 26, 2020, as a result of an imminent threat of a “natural disaster” resulting from Hurricane Zeta and related conditions (tropical rains, winds, storm surge, lightening, flooding, etc.) projected to commence in the area on or about October 28-29, 2020, and impact an area that included the City of Gulfport, and that, as the Executive/Administrative Officer of the City of Gulfport and under authority of § 45-17-3, et seq., *Miss. Code Ann.*, and related statutes, the undersigned found and declared that a “Civil Emergency” existed in the City of Gulfport, Mississippi and/or under authority of § 33-15-17(d), et seq., *Miss. Code Ann.* and related statutes, the undersigned found and declared that a “**Local Emergency**” existed in the City of Gulfport, Mississippi; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governor of the State of Mississippi subsequently declared and proclaimed, pursuant to authority vested in him by the Mississippi Constitution of 1890 and § 33-15-11(b)(17), that as of October 28, 2020, a State of Emergency existed in the State of Mississippi as a result of the impending impact of Hurricane Zeta; and

**WHEREAS**, the undersigned later determined that as of 12:00 p.m. (noon) on Wednesday, October 28, 2020, the administrative functions of the City in various Departments and Buildings could not operate due to the imminent threat of Hurricane Zeta and related conditions and the undersigned determined that it was necessary to implement an administrative closure and for all City Departments to cease operations, including later, for those in the Police, Fire, Public Works, 311, and Leisure Services Departments associated with the provision of services dedicated to public safety, as set forth in a Mayoral Proclamation that was signed by the undersigned on October 28, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, in an effort to safeguard and protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public and for the protection and preservation of life and property, the undersigned issued a general curfew by Order on October 28, 2020, to curtail and restrict the movement of people and the motoring public in the City’s corporate limits from 5:00 p.m. central time on Wednesday, October 28, 2020, to 5:59 a.m. central time on Thursday, October 29, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, Hurricane Zeta struck the Mississippi Gulf Coast and the City of Gulfport during the late afternoon and evening hours on October 28, 2020, and did so as a Category 2 Hurricane, which was a stronger storm than was earlier predicted, and while the extent of the storm’s impact on the public infrastructure of the City and public and private properties has not yet been comprehensively evaluated, it was evident that damage, to include, without limitation, downed power lines, utility infrastructure, trees, and other debris in and along the roadways, is to such a degree that the movement of people and the motoring public must continue to be restricted for a period of time to allow for clean-up and recovery efforts and, therefore, the general curfew was extended by the undersigned by Order issued on October 28, 2020, and

which extended the curfew as to all persons and the motoring public in the City's corporate limits through 12:00 p.m. (noon) on Thursday, October 29, 2020; and

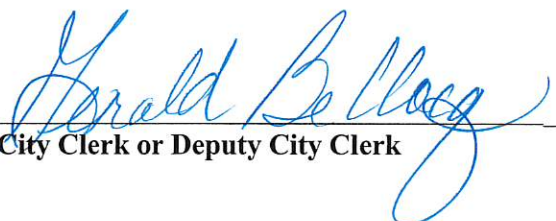
**WHEREAS**, in view of the foregoing and the fact that the administrative functions of the City in various Departments and Buildings cannot presently operate due to the aftermath following Hurricane Zeta and related conditions and the damages caused thereby, to include obstructions on public roadways and downed power lines, utilities, and trees, the undersigned has hereby determined that it is necessary to extend the administrative closure for all City Departments to cease operations that went into effect at 5:00 p.m. on October 28, 2020, and to extend the same through and including 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 29, 2020; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED** that due to a natural disaster, or imminent threat thereof, within the geographic limits of the City of Gulfport which has caused and continues to cause or threaten to cause injury or death to persons and/or destruction of property to such an extent that extraordinary measures must be taken to protect the public health, safety and welfare, the period of administrative closure of the administrative functions of the City, pursuant to Section 10.11 of the City's Employee Handbook, that was in effect as of 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 28, 2020, is hereby extended to 12:00 p.m. (noon) on Thursday, October 29, 2020, during which time the essential and non-essential dichotomy will continue to be implemented and in effect. Pay to essential and non-essential employees shall be made in accord with Section 10.11 of the City's Employee Handbook. ***This administrative closure shall be lifted and no longer be in effect as of 12:00 p.m. (noon) on Thursday, October 29, 2020.*** All affected employees are required to return to regular work or otherwise report to work by 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 29, 2020, or at their regular times following thereof.

**SO ORDERED AND PROCLAIMED** on this the 28<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2020.

  
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**MAYOR**

Filed and Attested by:

  
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**City Clerk or Deputy City Clerk**