

**A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE CITY MANAGER’S DECLARATION OF A
LOCAL EMERGENCY DUE TO THE IMMINENT THREAT OF DISASTER POSED
BY THE CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) PANDEMIC**

WHEREAS, Virginia Code § 44-146.21 provides that in the event the governing body cannot convene due to a disaster or other exigent circumstances, the local director of emergency services may declare the existence of a local emergency, subject to confirmation by the governing body at its next regularly scheduled meeting or at a special meeting within fourteen days of the declaration, whichever occurs first; and,

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic and its highly-transmissible Omicron variant has resulted in a sudden and dramatic increase in COVID-19 cases in the City (844 new cases in the City in the last seven days) and in hospitalizations (25 new hospitalizations in the last seven days) and is not expected to peak until January 31, 2022; and

WHEREAS, by virtue of the authority vested in him by § 44-146.21, the City Manager, as the City’s Director of Emergency Management, issued a Declaration of Local Emergency on January 11, 2022, in response to the imminent threat posed by the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, including the highly-transmissible Omicron variant, the effects of which constitute a disaster as described in Virginia Code § 44-146.16; and,

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Harrisonburg finds that the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, including the Omicron variant, is seriously impacting the City and its citizens by (i) the extensive illness and even death of significant numbers of the City’s residents, (ii) the disruption of the services provided to citizens due to the absenteeism of workers, including utility services (electricity, water, telephone, etc.), the delivery of public safety services (police, fire, medical, etc.) as well as financial activities, and (iii) shortages and erratic delivery of critical goods, services and medicine, and the Council finds that the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, including the Omicron variant, has caused and will continue to cause damage, loss, hardship or suffering to the citizens of Harrisonburg; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HARRISONBURG, VIRGINIA that pursuant to Virginia Code § 44-146.21 City Council hereby confirms the Declaration of Local Emergency issued by the City Manager, in his capacity as the City’s Director of Emergency Management, on January 11, 2022, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit “A” and is hereby incorporated by reference and does confirm all emergency actions taken by the City Manager and City officials, employees and agents pursuant to the declaration of emergency by the City Manager.

IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED: (i) that the City Manager’s January 11, 2022, Declaration of a Local Emergency and the City’s Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan shall remain in effect; (ii) during the existence of said local emergency the powers, functions, and duties of the City Manager and the City Council shall be those prescribed by State law and the ordinances, resolutions, regulations and approved plans of the City of Harrisonburg in order to mitigate the effects of said local emergency; and (iii) City Council calls upon the Federal and State governments to take steps to afford to the City of Harrisonburg and to the persons and business concerns and other organizations and agencies suffering injury and damage from this disaster such public aid and assistance as is necessary and proper to meet this emergency.

The Clerk or Council is directed to forward an attested copy of this Resolution to the State Coordinator of Emergency Management.

MAYOR

ATTEST: _____
City Clerk