EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. COVID-19 (11)

CITY OF MERIDIAN

WHEREAS, on March 18, pursuant to Section §45-17-1 through 45-17-13 of the Mississippi Code of 1972, entitled Civil Emergencies, authorizes the Mayor of the City of Meridian to proclaim that a Civil Emergency exists defined as any natural disaster or man-made calamity resulting in the death or injury of persons to such an extent that extraordinary measures must be taken to protect the public health, safety and welfare; and

WHEREAS, the Civil Emergencies law authorizes the Mayor to issue a civil emergency proclamation in wake of the Coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19), and issue such orders as he deems necessary to protect the public health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Meridian, Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, the Governor for the State of Mississippi has also issued Executive Orders, and has warned that a safer-at-home order could be imminent for some Mississippi communities, therefore the Mayor of the City of Meridian, Mississippi in order to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 and flatten the growth curve must take extraordinary measures to prohibit and limit nonessential close personal contact among its citizens;

WHEREAS, the below measures related to the spread of COVID-19 are necessary and expedient for the health safety, welfare, and protection of the public and preservation of life.

WHEREAS, §21-19-2 gives municipalities the authority to make regulations to prevent the spreading of contagious or infectious diseases and to make quarantine laws for that purpose; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Percy Bland, Mayor of the City of Meridian, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and law of the State of Mississippi, do hereby order and direct as follows in the City of Meridian, to be implemented beginning at 8 a.m. on Thursday, October 1, 2020:

- A Mandatory Face Mask Order for the City of Meridian that includes:

  1. Businesses must require its customers to wear a mask before entrance into its facility. The policy is no mask no entry. This mandate applies to restaurants, liquor stores, bars, salons, groceries stores, service stations and all places of business.

  2. All citizens of Meridian who are out and amongst the public must wear a mask for the protection of themselves, the public welfare, loved ones and the health of others.
3. Any and all employees of a business, and particularly the employees who handle foods of any kind, such as fast food places and others, must wear a mask and gloves when interacting with the public.

4. Any individual who is over age two and able to medically tolerate a face covering shall be required to cover their nose and mouth with a face covering when in public places such as stores and public outdoor spaces. A face covering shall be considered a device to cover the nose and mouth of a person to impede the spread of saliva or other fluids during speaking, coughing, sneezing, or other intentional or involuntary action. Medical grade masks are not required; coverings may be old fashioned scarves, bandanas, handkerchiefs, or other suitable fabrics.

- **FACE COVERINGS do not need to be worn in the following circumstances:**
  - When exercising outside or engaging in physical activity outside;
  - When driving alone or with passengers who are part of the same household as the driver;
  - When doing so poses a greater mental or physical health, safety, or security risk such as anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the cover without assistance. For purposes of this subsection, “safety risk” shall include external factors, such as, but not limited to: where wearing a face covering may pose a risk to persons working on ladders or at significant heights, wearing other respiratory protection, heavy physical exertion or operating heavy equipment or operating in an environment where face coverings hinders communications. However, employers are encouraged to structure work to promote social distancing and limit close contact as much as possible within workplaces where face coverings may pose such risks;
  - When pumping gas;
  - When in a building or activity that requires security surveillance or screening, (for example, banks);
  - When working alone in separate office spaces or in non-public workplaces where six feet of social distancing may be consistently maintained; or
  - When eating or drinking in a public restaurant, bar, or other food or beverage establishment. A face covering must be worn when entering or exiting any such establishment, and when walking around such establishment and six feet of social distancing cannot be maintained.

5. All commercial entities, businesses, establishments, restaurants, bars, theatre houses, auditoriums, libraries, and museums providing goods or services directly related to the public must require that all employees, patrons, customers, and visitors to the commercial entity’s business premises or other facilities wear face coverings when in an area or performing an activity where social distancing of a minimum of six feet cannot be maintained.

6. **Applicability.** This order applies to all businesses in the City of Meridian, including salons, beauty shops, barber shops, tattoo parlors, and all previously
listed businesses. The mask must cover the customers’ mouth and nose. An exception, a barber shop or beauty salon may require the removal of the mask in which a service is provided, and cannot be provided while wearing a face mask.

7. **Effective Date, Duration.** This Order shall be effective as of Thursday, October 1, 2020 at 8 a.m. and remain in full force and effect until modified, amended, rescinded, superseded, or terminated due to the expiration or termination of the existing civil emergency.

8. **Violation of the Order.** Business or individuals in violation of this order will be given a citation of warning first. A second citation of a business will result in a $250 fine and a $100 fine for an individual.

This Executive Order shall be in effect in and for The City of Meridian, Mississippi, from Thursday, October 1, 2020 at 8 a.m. until this Executive Order is rescinded by further order or by operation of law.

PERCY BLAND, III, MAYOR
CITY OF MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI

ATTEST:

BRANDYE LATIMER, CITY CLERK

Date: 9/30/20