



St. Tammany Parish Government **EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER**

Executive Order

Emergency Operations Center Contact: 985-898-2359

EXECUTIVE ORDER RESTRICTING PUBLIC ACCESS TO PARISH BUILDINGS AND POSTPONING PUBLIC MEETINGS DUE TO THE PARISH-WIDE STATE OF EMERGENCY AS PER THE LOUISIANA HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE AND DISASTER ACT, LA. REV. STAT. 29:721, *ET SEQ.*, AS TO CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19).

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Homeland Security and Emergency Assistance and Disaster Act, La. Rev. Stat. 29:721, *et seq.*, confers upon the Governor of the State of Louisiana and parish presidents emergency powers to prepare and cope with emergencies and disasters, including those caused by fire, flood, earthquake or other natural or manmade causes, in order to ensure that preparations will be adequate to cope with such emergencies or disasters and to preserve the lives and property of the people of the State of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, when the Parish President determines that a disaster or emergency has occurred, or the threat thereof is imminent, La. Rev. Stat. 29:727 empowers him to declare a state of emergency by executive order or proclamation; and

WHEREAS, La. Rev. Stat. 29:727(F) authorizes the Parish President to, among other things, suspend the provision of any regulatory ordinance prescribing the procedures for conduct of local business, or the orders, rules, or regulations of any local agency, if strict compliance with the provisions of any ordinance, order, rule, or regulation would in any way prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in coping with the emergency; and

WHEREAS, La. Rev. Stat. 29:727(F) further authorizes the Parish President to, among other things, control ingress and egress to and from the affected area, the movement of persons within the area, and the occupancy of premises therein; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, Governor John Bel Edwards issued Proclamation No. 25 JBE 2020, which declared a public health emergency to exist in the State of Louisiana as a result of the imminent threat posed to Louisiana citizens by COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Parish President, Michael B. Cooper, on March 13, 2020, declared a parish-wide state of emergency due to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19); and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, Governor John Bel Edwards issued Proclamation No. 30 JBE 2020, which, among other things, ordered that all public gatherings of 50 or more persons be postponed or cancelled during the period from March 17, 2020 until April 13, 2020, due to the imminent threat posed to Louisiana citizens by COVID-19, closed certain business establishments, and limited access to restaurants and other dining establishments; and

WHEREAS, there is reason to believe that COVID-19 may be spread amongst the population by various means of exposure, therefore posing a high probability of widespread exposure and a significant risk of substantial future harm to St. Tammany Parish citizens; and



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WHEREAS, to timely and effectively meet the dangers presented by the emergency, it is necessary to immediately restrict public access to certain Parish Government buildings, and to postpone public meetings.

IT IS ORDERED that, pursuant to the authority vested in him through the Louisiana Homeland Security and Emergency Assistance and Disaster Act, La. Rev. Stat. 29:721, *et seq.*, specifically La. Rev. Stat. 29:727 (F), Michael B. Cooper, as Parish President, orders that beginning on March 18, 2020 and continuing until further notice, there shall be no public access to the following Parish buildings:

St. Tammany Parish Government Complex, 21490 Koop Drive, Mandeville, LA (Building A), 21454 Koop Drive, Mandeville, LA (Building B), and 21410 Koop Drive, Mandeville, LA (Building C);

Animal Services, 31078 Highway 36, Lacombe, LA;

Tyler Building, 620 N. Tyler Street, Covington, LA; and

Towers Building, 520 Old Spanish Trail, Slidell, LA.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Michael B. Cooper, as Parish President, orders that access to the St. Tammany Parish Justice Center, 701 N. Columbia Street, Covington, LA, shall be restricted to those persons whose attendance is required for emergency court cases, access to the St. Tammany Parish Clerk's Office, and access to the St. Tammany Parish Sheriff's Office; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Michael B. Cooper, as Parish President, orders that all public meetings of Parish Government, agencies, boards and commissions be cancelled or postponed until further notice; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that any person or entity who interrupts or interferes with the control of the Parish and/or Parish President shall be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

At Mandeville, Louisiana, this 17th day of March 2020 at 1:00 p.m.


Michael B. Cooper
Parish President

NOTICE POSTED AT:
St. Tammany Parish web-page: stpgov.org
and
21490 Koop Drive, Mandeville, La.
and
510 E. Boston Street, Covington, La.

Sworn and subscribed before me,


(Notary Public)

On this 17th day of March 2020.

EMILY COUVILLON LA BAR NO. 31114