

Published in the Tulsa World
 ____ day of December 2020.

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF TULSA, OKLAHOMA; RECOGNIZING THAT THE CURRENT SURGE OF COVID-19 INFECTIONS IN TULSA COUNTY CREATES A SEVERE RISK OF ILLNESS OR DEATH; FINDING THAT REMOTE WORKING AT HOME USING COMPUTERS, THE INTERNET, AND PHONE ACCESS REDUCES THE RISK OF ILLNESS OR DEATH FROM A COVID-19 INFECTION, BY ALLOWING EMPLOYEES TO TELEWORK AND IS AN EFFECTIVE WAY TO MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCING; RESOLVING THAT ALL BUSINESSES IN TULSA AND SURROUNDING AREAS ALLOW THEIR EMPLOYEES TO TELEWORK AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE UNTIL THE COVID-19 SURGE AND THE RISK TO OUR HEALTH CARE SYSTEM HAS PASSED; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 virus spreads easily from person to person, may result in serious illness or death, has broadly spread throughout Tulsa and the surrounding region, has already caused more than 2,000 deaths of Oklahomans and more than 300,000 deaths of Americans, and is a significant health risk to all Tulsans; and

WHEREAS, twenty-two (22) of Tulsa County's forty-two (42) zip codes are in a dark red classification, signifying an extremely severe risk of contracting a COVID-19 infection, and eighteen (18) zip codes are in a red classification, signifying a severe risk of contracting a COVID-19 infection; and

WHEREAS, new cases and hospitalizations for COVID-19 in Tulsa County have been sharply increasing to record highs in the past month, and this surge has placed health care workers under an extreme strain, compromising the ability of our health care system to deliver necessary care; and

WHEREAS, the arrival of a COVID-19 vaccine in Oklahoma is expected to end the pandemic in coming months, but it will take several months for adequate supplies of that vaccine to be available to protect the majority of Tulsans and Oklahomans, so that the next few months are extremely important for reducing the spread of the virus to save lives and protect our health care system until vaccines become broadly available; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 presents new and unique challenges, making it important to find new ways to work and interact while also taking care of our physical and mental health; and

WHEREAS now more than ever, we all must take care of our physical and mental health, as we protect ourselves against potential exposure to COVID-19, and

WHEREAS, remote working at home using computers, the internet, and phone access can be helpful in urgent situations, allowing for continuity of operations during a pandemic where exposure to others outside of one’s family unit creates a risk of illness or even death; and

WHEREAS, allowing employees to telework is an effective way to maintain social distancing, remove opportunities of the COVID-19 virus to spread, and save lives;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TULSA THAT:

Section 1. The Tulsa City Council resolves that all businesses in Tulsa and surrounding areas are encouraged to allow employees to telework as much as possible until the COVID-19 surge and the risk to our health care system has passed.

Section 2. We urge all businesses that previously implemented telework policies during the COVID-19 pandemic to maintain or reinstate those policies due to the current high level of danger.

Section 3. Emergency Clause. That an emergency is now declared to exist for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety and for this reason this resolution shall take effect immediately from and after its adoption by the Council and approval by the Mayor.

ADOPTED by the Council _____
Date

Chair of the Council

ADOPTED, as an emergency measure, on this _____ day of December 2020.

Chair of the Council

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Received by the Mayor: _____, at _____.
Date Time

By: _____
Secretary

APPROVED by the Mayor of the City of Tulsa, Oklahoma: _____.
Date

At _____.
Time

Mayor

(Seal)

ATTEST:

City Clerk

APPROVED:

City Attorney