Mayor Brown Issues Local State of Emergency for the City of Hinesville to Take Effect on Saturday, March 21 at 3 p.m.

UPDATED MARCH 23, 2020:

HINESVILLE, Ga. (Mar. 23, 2020) – On Monday, March 23 at 4:45 p.m., Mayor Allen Brown signed into effect changes to the original Local State of Emergency declaration issued on Friday, March 20. The changes will begin effective at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, March 24. Changes include:

9. The City of Hinesville issues a recommendation to Hinesville merchants and retailers to immediately implement the following when possible: limiting the number of customers inside stores to prevent disregard for social/physical distancing recommendations; creating handwashing or hand sanitizing stations at the entrances of each store OR institute handwashing policies and procedures as customers enter stores, with a staff member to monitor and/or direct customers entering the store; enforcing/reinforcing the physical distance recommendation of at least 6 feet between familial groups/customers; and promotion of the use of self-checkout to limit interaction between staff and customers when possible or following the guidance of their corporate guidelines;

10. That businesses such as hair salons, barber shops, nail salons, tattoo parlors and other grooming facilities where social and/or physical distancing is not possible shall be closed;

11. That businesses classified as daycares, elementary, secondary and post-secondary private educational institutions where individuals gather for educational instruction shall be closed;

12. These changes shall take effect on Tuesday, March 24 at 5:00 p.m.

13. This Declaration shall expire on April 20, 2020 unless otherwise amended, extended, or canceled by the Mayor OR until the such time as the public health emergency as issued by the Governor of Georgia expires.

This document is posted to the City’s website at cityofhinesville.org/517/COVID-19.

HINESVILLE, Ga. (Mar. 20, 2020) – On Friday, March 20 at 8:45 p.m., Mayor Allen Brown issued a Local State of Emergency for the City of Hinesville to take effect at 3 p.m. on Saturday, March 21.

“In order to better protect and defend the public health of our community, we’ve had to make difficult decisions. Ones that, I feel confident, will help in the defense of our community, but might hurt in the short term,” says Mayor Brown. “I ask that our residents, businesses and faith communities take heed of the CDC’s recommendations – as we are doing – and help protect your
families, neighbors and coworkers and the remainder of our community during this unprecedented time.”

The Local State of Emergency will address and enforce the following:

1. That the City Manager shall activate emergency operations plans implicated by this Order and as laid out in the published document URGENT AND IMMEDIATE CHANGES TO CITY OF HINESVILLE OPERATIONAL HOURS;

2. As determined by the City Manager, to the extent possible, City employees should begin teleworking remotely from home;

3. That all gyms and fitness centers, movie theaters, live performance venues, bowling alleys, and arcades shall be closed;

4. That all bars and nightclubs open for on-premise consumption of alcohol shall be closed.

5. That restaurants and other eating and drinking establishments where food is served, may continue preparing and offering food to customers via delivery service, drive-through, or takeout; provided, however, that cafeterias in hospitals, nursing homes, hospice centers, or similar facilities shall not be subject to these restrictions and may continue normal operations;

6. Funerals consisting of more than 10 mourners are encouraged to conduct graveside services only or postpone to a future date;

7. The City of Hinesville issues a recommendation to the faith community for the suspension of in-church services and the utilization of online or streaming options. If electronic delivery of services is not possible, maintaining strict adherence to CDC’s social distancing guidelines of no groups larger than 10 and keeping at least 6 feet between individuals;

8. This Declaration shall take affect 3:00 pm on Saturday, March 21, 2020; and

9. This Declaration shall expire on April 5, 2020 unless otherwise amended, extended, or cancelled by the Mayor.

The full declaration is published to the City’s website.

We encourage Hinesville residents to familiarize themselves with the CDC’s guidelines on evaluating symptoms and contacting their healthcare providers. Please contact your healthcare provider or the local Urgent Care offices if you begin to feel ill or believe you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms.
If you are experiencing the symptoms of COVID-19, please DO NOT arrive at the hospital, your provider’s office or Urgent Care offices without calling. You may also call the Georgia COVID-19 Hotline at 1.844.442.2681.

If you are experiencing symptoms such as chest pains or shortness of breath, please call 911.

Additional information regarding COVID-19 will be shared as it becomes available via the City’s website and social media accounts. Please visit our COVID-19 page for the latest information out of the City of Hinesville as it relates to our response to the COVID-19 situation in Georgia. For more information, please contact Whitney Morris – Reed, Public Relations Manager, at wmorrisreed@cityofhinesville.org.

ABOUT THE CITY OF HINESVILLE:
The City of Hinesville was established in 1837 and is recognized as one of the fastest growing cities in the State of Georgia in both size and population. As the largest city in Liberty County, it serves as the county seat and is home to more than 35,000 people. For more information, visit cityofhinesville.org.