



Forsyth County Board of Commissioners

FORSYTH COUNTY CHAIR EXERCISE OF EMERGENCY POWERS PURSUANT TO A DECLARATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY ISSUED MARCH 18, 2020

Date: APRIL 3, 2020

Pursuant to that authority vested in me by Chapter 26 of the Forsyth County Code of Enforces, as well as the Declaration(s) of Statewide Emergency and Local Emergency issued to address the COVID-19 pandemic, and also pursuant to the guidelines in Governor Kemp's March 23, 2020 Executive Order regarding COVID-19; I hereby find and order that:

- Temporary suspension of the following ordinances, resolutions, orders, rules or regulations of Forsyth County pertaining to the conduct of county business is necessary, as strict compliance with same prevents, hinders, and delays necessary action in coping the COVID-19 emergency (Sec. 26-37(D)(7));
- Taking the following action will promote and secure the safety and protection of the civilian population (Sec. 26-37(D)(9):

ALCOHOL SALES PERMITS: The Forsyth County Alcohol Code, Section 6-8, provides that employees of licensees to sell alcohol are required to have their own sales permit under the following conditions:

- a. Any employee of a package outlet whose primary business is the sale of alcoholic beverages;
- b. Any employee who serves alcoholic beverages at an outlet with a consumption on the premises license, which shall include, but shall not be limited to, taking of order(s), dispensing or serving alcoholic beverages, and checking identification(s); or
- c. Any employee of a package outlet whose duties include conducting alcohol sales transactions or who will be on duty alone at such establishment.

Due to the constraints on person-to-person contact and other challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Forsyth County Sheriff's Office and Business License Department has temporarily discontinued processing alcohol sales permit applications. While necessary, this has presented a challenge to certain businesses that are endeavoring to remain open and serve the public, but who are in need of additional employees that may lawfully sell alcohol.

As such, I hereby declare and order that the procedures for requiring an "alcohol sales permit," prior to employees of an alcohol licensee *selling* alcohol, are suspended during the term of the locally declared emergency. Any alcohol licensee that allows an unpermitted employee to sell alcohol shall ensure that the new employee satisfies the minimum age thresholds set by Georgia law. Moreover, should an unpermitted employee sell alcohol to an underage person, the licensee shall be cited and shall be solely responsible for any administrative suspension.

Within thirty (30) days of the locally declared emergency being lifted, any employee that has sold alcohol pursuant to this order – that did not have an alcohol sales permit - shall apply for an alcohol sales permit, per Section 6-8 of the County Code.

So Declared and Ordered, this 3rd day of April, 2020.

Laura Semanson, Chair
Forsyth County Board of Commissioners

cc: Forsyth County Board of Commissioners
Eric Johnson, Forsyth County Manager
Tim Merritt, Deputy Forsyth County Manager
Garrin Coleman, Ass't Forsyth County Manager
Tom Brown, Director of Planning & Community Development
Vivian Vakili, Economic Development
Amy Konrath, Business License Manager
Charity Clark, Risk Manager
Ron Freeman, Forsyth County Sheriff
Rhonda Hansard, Forsyth County Clerk
Ken Jarrard, Forsyth County Attorney