



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 13, 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):

1. **Additional Signage Allowance.** The COVID-19 pandemic may have a profound negative impact on the restaurant and retail industries in Forsyth County, particularly establishments that rely on patrons to enter their physical locations. I find that it is in the best interests of the citizens of Forsyth County that restaurant and retail establishments be supported during this extremely challenging time. As such, I hereby exercise the power entrusted in me by authorizing retail and restaurant establishments to have **additional temporary signage**, as set forth below. I find such action to be necessary in order to allow retail and restaurant establishments to advise the public as to whether they are open for business, any public safety protocols for conducting business within such establishments, alternative avenues for conducting business with such establishments, enhanced or alternative price lists, and other forms of communication that are required due to the evolving nature of the business environment brought about by COVI-19.

- a. This suspension on the normal permitting for temporary signage shall only apply to restaurant and retail establishments having physical locations in Forsyth County, and is intended to allow additional signage pertaining to revised hours, closures, dine-in or take out only options, curbside service, park here directions, limited menus signs on doors, revised or alternative pricing, number of people allowed at the location, and emergency contact information. Given constitutional considerations, this suspension Order does not compel the content of messages available on temporary signage, but is intended to convey the types of signage contemplated in issuing this suspension Order.
- b. **Available Temporary Signage:** The additional temporary signage authorized by this Order, in addition to any signage currently authorized by the Forsyth County Sign Code, is:
 - i. two additional expression signs, as defined Section 66-105 of the County's sign code, per establishment, and
 - ii. two additional sign devices that are allowed for up to 10 days, except for searchlights, as defined in Section 66-103, per establishment.
- c. The additional signage authorized in (1)(b)(i-ii) shall not authorize such signage to be placed in the right of way.
- d. The additional signage authorized in (1)(b)(i-ii) shall not require a permit.
- e. The additional signage authorized under this Order may only be erected during the term of the locally declared emergency. Nothing in this Order shall give rise to a vested or grandfathered right for the additional signage authorized hereunder to remain once the locally declared emergency ends.

- f. To the extent that that the Forsyth County Sign Code would otherwise require a restaurant or retail establishment to obtain a temporary sign permit for the types of signage above, or allow them at all, that Ordinance requirement is suspended.
- g. Upon discontinuation of the locally declared emergency, any unpermitted or unauthorized temporary signage erected, posted, or otherwise installed pursuant to this Order shall be promptly removed.

So Declared and Ordered, this 13th 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
Melanie Halstead, Planning Department (signage)
Vivian Vakili, Economic Development
Charity Clark, Risk Manager
Ron Freeman, Forsyth County Sheriff
Rhonda Hansard, Forsyth County Clerk
Ken Jarrard, Forsyth County Attorney