CITY OF KARNES CITY
DECLARATION OF A LOCAL STATE OF DISASTER AND PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, in December 2019 a novel coronavirus, now designated COVID-19, was detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China. Symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, cough and shortness of breath. Outcomes have ranged from mild to severe illness, and in some cases death; and

WHEREAS, on January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization Director General declared the outbreak of COVID-19 as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC), advising countries to prepare for the containment, detection, isolation and case management, contact tracing and prevention of onward spread of the disease and on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared that the COVID-19 outbreak should be characterized as pandemic; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Texas Disaster Act of 1975, the Mayor is designated as the emergency management director of the City of Karnes City and may exercise the powers granted of the Governor on an appropriate local scale; and

WHEREAS, a declaration of local disaster and public health emergency includes the ability to reduce the possibility of exposure to disease, control the risk, promote health, compel persons to undergo additional health measures that prevent or control the spread of disease, including isolation, surveillance, quarantine, or placement of persons under public health observation, including the provision of temporary housing or emergency shelters for persons misplaced or evacuated, request assistance from the governor of state resources, and access funds available for disaster relief and reimbursement at the state and federal level; and

WHEREAS, by this Declaration of Public Health Emergency, I declare all rules and regulations that may inhibit or prevent prompt response to this threat suspended for the duration of the incident; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the authority granted to the Mayor under the Texas Disaster Act of 1975, I authorize the use of all available resources of state government and political subdivisions to assist in the City's response to this situation; and

WHEREAS, I, Leroy T. Skloss, the Mayor of the City of Karnes City have determined that extraordinary and immediate measures must be taken to respond quickly, prevent and alleviate the suffering of people exposed to and those infected with the virus, as well as those that could potentially be infected or impacted by COVID-19;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE CITY OF KARNES CITY:

1. That a local state of disaster and public health emergency is hereby declared for the City of Karnes City pursuant to §418.108(a) of the Texas Government Code.

2. Pursuant to §418.108(b) of the Government Code, the state of disaster and public health emergency shall continue until revoked, to coincide with state disaster declaration issued by the Governor of Texas from the date of this declaration **for seven (7) days unless continued or renewed by the City Council.**

3. Pursuant to §418.l08(c) of the Government Code, this declaration of a local state of disaster and public health emergency shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the City Secretary.

4. Pursuant to §418.l08(d) of the Government Code, this declaration of a local state of disaster and public health emergency activates the City of Karnes City's emergency management plan.

5. Pursuant to §418.020(c) of the Government Code, this declaration authorizes the City to commandeer or use any private property, temporarily acquire, by lease or other means, sites required for temporary housing units or emergency shelters for evacuees, subject to compensation requirements.

6. Pursuant to §122.006 of the Health and Safety Code, this declaration authorizes the City to take any actions necessary to promote health and suppress disease, including quarantine, examining and regulating hospitals, regulating ingress and egress from the City, and fining those who do not comply with the City's rules.

7. Pursuant to the Texas Disaster Act of 1975, I, Leroy T. Skloss, as Mayor of the City of Karnes City, in coordination and consultation with the Local Health Authority issue further guidance and restrictions set out within the Declaration Regarding Public and Private Gatherings as set out by the Governor of the State Texas and the Center for Disease Control.

8. As Mayor, I further reserve all other authority and powers conferred by state law to respond as necessary to this situation.

9. Activation of the City Emergency Management Plan. Pursuant to §418.108(d) of the Texas Disaster Act, this declaration of a local state of disaster due to this public health emergency activates the City of Karnes City' Emergency Management Plan.

10. Protective Control Measures and Facilities. Pursuant to §122.006 of the Health and Safety Code, the City is authorized to adopt rules to protect the health of persons in the City of Karnes City, including quarantine rules to protect the residents against communicable disease and provide for the establishment of quarantine stations, emergency hospitals and other hospitals.

11. Audience and presenter social distancing and public testimony and public hearing input at public meetings of the City Council and City Boards and Commissions. To reduce the chance of COVID-19 transmission, public meetings, if held, will be held in a manner intended to separate, to the maximum practical extent, audience and

presenters from personal contact with members of the community, City staff, City Council and City Boards and Commissions. Public testimony and public hearing input for public comment and on all items on the agenda at public meetings of the City Council and City Boards and Commissions shall be provided in written format and presented to the City Secretary and/or designee prior to the start of each meeting(s) of the City Council and/or City Boards and/or Commission. This testimony and/or public input shall be in accordance with the City Secretary's instructions, which shall be posted on the City Secretary's door and on the City website and allow for electronic submission. The written public testimony shall be provided to members of City Council or the applicable City board or commission prior to voting on measures for that meeting. That written testimony shall be limited in accordance with the City Secretary requirements and shall be placed into the record of each meeting. This written testimony shall serve as the required public testimony pursuant to Texas Gov't Code 551 .007 and shall constitute a public hearing for purposes of any public hearing requirement under law.

12. Effective Date. This proclamation shall take effect immediately upon its issuance by the Mayor of the City of Karnes City.

ORDERED THIS THE 20TH DAY OF MARCH, 2020.

Leroy T. Skloss
Mayor, City of Karnes City

CITY OF KARNES CITY, TEXAS

Attest:
Veronica Butler,
City Secretary