

# **CITY OF BELLEVUE**

## **ORDER #1 PURSUANT TO PROCLAMATION OF EMERGENCY OF MARCH 3, 2020**

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Public Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar declared a public emergency for the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) beginning on January 27, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on February 29, 2020, Governor Jay Inslee signed a Proclamation declaring a State of Emergency exists in all counties in the State of Washington due to the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the state and directed that the plans and procedures of the Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan be implemented; and

WHEREAS, on March 1, 2020, King County Executive Dow Constantine signed a Proclamation of Emergency due to the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in King County thus enabling King County government to take extraordinary measures; and

WHEREAS, the Emergency Manager of the Office of Emergency Management for the City of Bellevue has reported to the Mayor the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in King County is increasing daily; and

WHEREAS, on March 3, 2020, the undersigned Mayor of the City of Bellevue declared that a civil emergency exists within the City of Bellevue due to the outbreak of COVID-19 and necessitates the utilization of emergency powers granted under RCW 38.52 and Bellevue City Code 9.22; and

WHEREAS, Public Health – Seattle & King County issued guidance recommending that people at higher risk of severe illness should stay home and away from large groups of people as much as possible, including public places; and,

WHEREAS, this guidance is appropriate for public health reasons, it has economic and property impacts to small businesses, non profit organizations, and workers in Bellevue; and,

WHEREAS, local small businesses have reported laying off employees, experiencing severe revenue losses, dealing with lost business due to declines in foot traffic and thousands of employees working from home, and having to close their business by order of the Governor of the state of Washington; and,

WHEREAS, these impacts are being felt across all industry sectors, including retail, restaurant, hospitality, transportation, logistics, arts & culture, and many more; and,

WHEREAS, other major cities in the Greater Seattle area have implemented tax deferral programs to assist small businesses in their respective cities; and,

WHEREAS, under Bellevue City Code provision 4.03.040, Business and Occupation (B&O) tax payments for the first quarter of 2020 are due on or before April 30, 2020 and subsequent payments are due within thirty (30) days of the end of each quarter.

NOW, THEREFORE, the undersigned Mayor of the City of Bellevue, Washington, pursuant to BCC 9.22.020.I, hereby order the Finance and Asset Management Department (FAM) to implement the following actions to provide relief to small businesses operating in Bellevue, which is imminently necessary for the protection of life and property;

Section 1: Business and Occupation tax deferrals

To help distressed small businesses manage the use of scarce cash resources, the Finance and Asset Management Department (FAM) is directed and ordered to take administrative action to allow businesses with taxable gross receipts of less than \$5 million dollars or less during the 2019 tax year to defer first and second quarter Business and Occupation (B&O) tax payments until October 31<sup>st</sup>.

Section 2: Expiration and Termination

This Order shall, at the earliest practicable time, be filed with the City Clerk for presentation to the City Council for ratification and confirmation, and if not so ratified and confirmed, shall be void. If ratified and confirmed by the City Council, this order shall continue in force and effect until the March 3, 2020 Proclamation of Emergency is terminated by order of the Mayor or action by the City Council by ordinance.

Dated this 20<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020.



Lynne Robinson  
Mayor of the City of Bellevue