

**THE CITY OF TWIN FALLS**  
**DECLARATION OF LOCAL DISASTER EMERGENCY**

WHEREAS, the health and safety of all citizens of the city of Twin Falls is of the utmost importance; and

WHEREAS, novel coronavirus (COVID-19) has been identified as a respiratory disease which can result in serious illness or death. The threat of COVID-19 is imminent to the State of Idaho and the City of Twin Falls; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization has characterized COVID-19 as a pandemic and declared the outbreak an international public health emergency; and

WHEREAS, Idaho Code Section 46-1011 allows the mayor of a city to declare a local disaster emergency; and

WHEREAS, Idaho Code 46-1011(1) authorizes the extension of a mayor's declaration beyond seven (7) days by, or with the consent of, the City Council.

WHEREAS, Idaho Code Section 46-1002(2) defines "disaster" as the "imminent threat of widespread or severe damage, injury, or loss of life or property resulting from any natural or man-made cause..."; and

WHEREAS, Idaho Code Section 46-1002(3) provides that an "emergency" "means occurrence or imminent threat of a disaster or condition threatening life or property that requires state emergency assistance to supplement local efforts to save lives and protect property or to avert or lessen the threat of disaster;" and

WHEREAS, a local disaster emergency, as defined in Idaho Code Sections 46-1002(2) and (3) exists in the City of Twin Falls due to the imminent threat to life and health by the international outbreak of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Idaho Code Section 46-1011(2), a mayor's declaration of a local disaster emergency activates the response and recovery aspects of applicable local or intergovernmental disaster emergency plans for the furnishing of aid and assistance; and

WHEREAS, Idaho Code Sections 46-1003(2), (3), (4), and (6) authorize the City of Twin Falls to: prevent and reduce damage, injury, and loss of life and property resulting from natural or man-made catastrophes; prepare assistance for prompt and efficient search, rescue, care, and treatment of persons injured, victimized or threatened by disaster; provide for rapid and orderly restoration and rehabilitation of person and property affected by disasters; and to work in cooperation of disaster prevention, preparedness, response and recovery; and

WHEREAS, Idaho Code 67-2808 authorizes the City Council to declare that an emergency exists and that the public interest and necessity demand the immediate expenditure

of public money if there is a great public calamity or the need for emergency work to safeguard life, health, or property.

WHEREAS, the public interest and necessity may demand the immediate expenditure of public money to secure materials, equipment, and services from private and public entities to provide disaster emergency relief and assistance to persons threatened, injured, or victimized by the unhealthy, unsafe, and unsustainable conditions of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, an emergency declaration must be filed with the Twin Falls County Recorder's Office and "given prompt and general publicity;" and

WHEREAS, invoking these sections of Idaho Code allow the City of Twin Falls to: more efficiently allocate funds to combat COVID-19, gain access to Federal and State emergency funds, and further reduce costs to the citizens of Twin Falls by limiting the liability of taking these actions.

**NOW THEREFORE**, I, Suzanne Hawkins, Mayor of Twin Falls, Idaho, by virtue of the authority vested in me by Idaho Code Section 46-1011 do hereby find and therefore proclaim and declare that:

1. A local disaster emergency exists in the City of Twin Falls and that all efforts shall be made to protect the citizens of the City of Twin Falls through activation of all local disaster emergency plans, utilization of City of Twin Falls and state emergency resources, and to do all things reasonably possible to assist those individuals threatened, injured, or victimized by COVID-19; and

**NOW THEREFORE**, we, the City Council of Twin Falls, Idaho ratify and extend the mayor's declaration as follows:

2. That the mayor's Declaration made pursuant to Idaho Code 46-1011, shall be, and hereby is, ratified and extended beyond seven (7) days and shall remain in effect until further notice pursuant to the authority vested in the City Council in Idaho Code 46-1011(1).

3. This Declaration, ratification, and extension shall be promptly filed with the Twin Falls County Recorder's Office; and

4. That pursuant to Idaho Code 67-2808, an emergency exists, and the public interest and necessity demand the immediate expenditure of public money to secure materials, equipment, and services to provide disaster emergency relief and assistance.

5. Once the threat to public health and safety has ended, this Declaration shall be terminated, and such termination shall be promptly filed with the Twin Falls County Recorder's Office; and

6. Prompt and general publicity shall be given by a press release notifying the public of this Declaration.

SIGNED BY THE MAYOR

March 23, 2020.

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Suzanne Hawkins, Mayor

RATIFIED AND EXTENDED BY THE CITY COUNCIL March 23, 2020.

ATTEST:

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City Clerk