CITY OF SPOKANE VALLEY,
SPOKANE COUNTY, WASHINGTON

PROCLAMATION OF EMERGENCY OR DISASTER RELATING TO THE NOVEL CORONA VIRUS (COVID – 19) PANDEMIC IN THE CITY OF SPOKANE VALLEY, WASHINGTON, BY THE CITY MANAGER, AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO.

WHEREAS, pursuant to RCW 38.52.010, an “emergency or disaster” shall mean “an event or set of circumstances which: (i) Demands immediate action to preserve public health, protect life, protect public property, or to provide relief to any stricken community overtaken by such occurrences, or (ii) reaches such a dimension or degree of destructiveness as to warrant the governor declaring a state of emergency pursuant to RCW 43.06.010.”

WHEREAS, the City is responsible for maintaining the health, safety, and welfare of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, the City has authority, pursuant to RCW 38.52.070(2), "to enter into contracts and incur obligations necessary to combat such disaster, protecting the health and safety of persons and property, and providing emergency assistance to the victims of such disaster. Each political subdivision is authorized to exercise the powers vested under this section in the light of the exigencies of an extreme emergency situation without regard to time-consuming procedures and formalities prescribed by law (excepting mandatory constitutional requirements), including, but not limited to, budget law limitations, requirements of competitive bidding and publication of notices, provisions pertaining to the performance of public work, entering into contracts, the incurring of obligations, the employment of temporary workers, the rental of equipment, the purchase of supplies and materials, the levying of taxes, and the appropriation and expenditures of public funds...”;

WHEREAS, the City is a party to the regional Interlocal Agreement for Emergency Management Services. That interlocal agreement was established pursuant to chapter 39.34 RCW and RCW 38.52.070 to facilitate cooperation between the City and the other local governments that are parties to the agreement in the event of an emergency; and

WHEREAS, state and federal resources are supplemental to local jurisdiction efforts; and

WHEREAS, on February 29, 2020, the Governor of Washington State proclaimed that a state of emergency exists for all counties in the state of Washington for the Novel Coronavirus (“COVID-19”) pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared that the spread of the COVID–19 virus had created a global pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the President of the United States and the Governor of the State of Washington issued emergency declarations and proclamations on March 13, 2020, regarding the significant public health, safety, and welfare impacts from the COVID–19 pandemic and necessary mandatory actions to stem and prevent further spread of the COVID–19 pandemic within the United States and Washington State, including the City and broader Spokane County region; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the Health Officer for the Spokane Regional Health District identified necessary actions to stem significant public health, safety, and welfare impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic within the City and broader Spokane County region; and
WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, Sheriff Knezovich, Director of the Greater Spokane Department of Emergency Management, activated the Emergency Management Center to assist addressing impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic within the Spokane County region, including the City; and

WHEREAS, an emergency or disaster currently exists that necessitates utilization of the emergency powers granted pursuant to chapters 38.52 and/or 35A.33 RCW; and

WHEREAS, the emergency conditions may warrant the calling of an emergency meeting of the City Council without prior notice pursuant to RCW 42.30.070; and

WHEREAS, significant economic loss has occurred or is occurring as a result of closures of businesses and various governmental agencies; and

NOW THEREFORE, I Mark Calhoun, City Manager of the City of Spokane Valley, as a result of the aforementioned situation and pursuant to RCW 35A.13.080 and RCW 38.52.070:

DO HEREBY PROCLAIM that a State of Emergency exists in the City of Spokane Valley and direct that the plans and procedures of the currently adopted Interlocal Agreement for Emergency Management Services be implemented. Designated departments are authorized to enter into contracts and incur obligations necessary to combat such emergency to protect the health, safety, and welfare of person and property, and provide emergency assistance to the victims of such disaster. Each designated department is authorized to exercise the powers vested in this proclamation in light of the demands of an extreme emergency situation without regard to time consuming procedures and formalities prescribed by law (except mandatory constitutional requirements). As part of such emergency proclamation, I may amend City programs and hours of operation for City facilities, including closing facilities as appropriate and necessary under the circumstances. Further, I may waive such fees as are necessary to promote social distancing for public health, safety, and welfare purposes.

DATED this 16 day of March, 2020.

Mark Calhoun, City Manager