

## RESOLUTION 2020-3

### RESOLUTION URGING GOVERNOR DEWINE AND DIRECTOR ACTON FOR A WHOLLY OPEN ECONOMY AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2020 Governor DeWine declared a State of Emergency in Ohio and since March 11, 2020 Department of Health Director Dr. Amy Acton and Governor DeWine have issued over three dozen special orders in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the “special orders” in response to COVID-19 were issued to “flatten the curve” such that the total number of corona virus cases were reduced to avoid a surge in cases that could have overwhelmed the healthcare system leading to avoidable deaths; and

WHEREAS, as of June 3, 2020 in Ohio, Ohioans have “flattened the curve”, the healthcare system has not been overwhelmed and the healthcare system is equipped with ventilators and PPE to handle a surge in COVID-19 if it were to occur; and

WHEREAS, in the City of Mason, Warren County and all of Ohio, local businesses and families are suffering unsustainable losses and irreparable harm from restrictions that are no longer the least restrictive means necessary to protect those most at risk of harm from COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, Mason City Council recognizes the legitimate public purpose to promote and protect the well-being of our ecosystem of residents, businesses and schools, all of which reinforce one another and depend on a wholly open economy; and

WHEREAS, Mason City Council agrees with Governor DeWine that the economy and wellness are intertwined and that we can do two things at once by promoting an open economy and public safety and we therefore believe restrictions on the free market beyond those that legitimately meet the rigors of a *compelling government interest with the least restrictive measures* be reconsidered and repealed to facilitate economic recovery; and

WHEREAS, Mason City Council has recognized the significance of small, locally owned businesses and has adopted unique legislation, Ordinances 2020-43, 51 and 52, authorizing over \$2 million in small business recovery stimulus, the success of which depends on a wholly *open economy*; and

WHEREAS, Warren County’s top industry is *tourism*, Warren County is “Ohio’s Largest Playground” and the third fastest-growing county in Ohio, and Mason’s tourism revenue is generated by attractions such as Kings Island, Great Wolf Lodge and the Western & Southern Open which are gravely at risk; and

WHEREAS, prior to COVID-19, Warren County tourism generated significant economic impact with 12.3 million visitors, \$1.244 billion in visitor spending and almost 12,000 jobs generating \$285 million in wages; and

WHEREAS, Kings Island, Great Wolf Lodge and the Western & Southern Open account for nearly 4 million visitors and millions in economic benefit annually to Mason and Warren County; and

WHEREAS, 2019 was a record- breaking year for tourism in the State of Ohio, which ranked 7th in the nation for tourism; and

WHEREAS, Mason City Council agrees with Governor DeWine when he stated on May 8, 2019, just over one year ago, “There is so much to see and do in Ohio. We have great places to visit, art, culture, outdoor adventures, museums, and so much more. Tourism is not only fun, but it is also such an important part of our economy. Tourism provides jobs and improves our quality of life”; and

WHEREAS, tourism is part of an economic ecosystem of businesses, attractions, employment and amenities of all types that are interconnected and unable to thrive under the Ohio government’s current restrictions on the free market; and

WHEREAS, Warren County’s and Mason’s tourism industry, jobs, wages and revenue are at risk; and

WHEREAS, Mason City Council recognizes the legitimate public purpose to promote the well-being of all Mason businesses and Mason’s and Warren County’s Tourism ecosystem of support industries, attractions, amenities and employment opportunities, all of which reinforce one another and depend on a wholly open economy; and

WHEREAS, Mason City Council recognizes individuals, businesses and employees need restoration to lawfully exercise individual responsibility, accountability and freedom of choice as protected by our Constitution through wholly restored commerce under the *least restrictive measures necessary to meet a compelling government interest*.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the City of Mason, Ohio, \_\_\_ members elected thereto concurring:

Section 1. That on this day, June 3, 2020, Mason City Council petitions Governor DeWine and Dr. Amy Acton to *open all Ohio commerce, including tourism*.

Section 2. That all government restrictions and mandates related to COVID-19 that are no longer supported by a compelling government interest using the least restrictive means be reduced to recommendations.

Section 3. That Governor DeWine and Director Acton restore Ohio businesses’ rights to lawfully determine their own operational capacities and safety standards of best practice to promote the safety of their employees and visitors.

Section 4. That Governor DeWine and Director Acton protect and promote individuals' rights and personal responsibilities to lawfully choose and manage their own risks and safety standards of best practice for themselves and their families.

Section 5. That any future restrictive measures must meet the rigors of the *least restrictive measures necessary to meet a compelling government interest* in partnership with the Ohio State Legislature to protect Ohio's economy as well as its most vulnerable citizens.

Section 6. That the Clerk of Council is hereby directed to send a certified copy of this Resolution to Governor DeWine and Director Acton immediately upon its effective date.

Section 7. That this Resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, safety, and general welfare and shall be effective immediately upon its adoption. The reason for said declaration of emergency is the need to petition Governor DeWine and Director Acton for the relief included herein at the earliest possible date.

Passed this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of June 2020.

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Mayor

Attest:

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Clerk of Council