



City of Winston-Salem

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

POST OFFICE BOX 2511 • WINSTON-SALEM, NC 27102

J. ALLEN JOINES
MAYOR

**CITY OF WINSTON-SALEM THIRTEENTH AMENDED
DECLARATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY MODIFYING THE
MASK MANDATE FOR CITY OWNED AND LEASED FACILITIES
(SEVENTH AMENDED DECLARATION) TO EXEMPT THE BENTON
CONVENTION CENTER, THE WINSTON-SALEM FAIRGROUNDS,
TRUIST STADIUM, BOWMAN GRAY STADIUM, AND ALL OF THEIR
RELATED FACILITIES; RESCINDING THE CITY-WIDE AND
ANCILLARY MASK MANDATES (EIGHTH, NINTH, AND TENTH
AMENDED DECLARATIONS); AND EXTENDING THE
ELEVENTH AND TWELFTH AMENDED DECLARATIONS THROUGH
MARCH 31, 2022 (ACCESS TO CITY BUILDINGS)**

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, the Health and Human Services Secretary, Alex M. Azar II, declared COVID-19 to be a public health emergency in the United States; and

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, in order to address and mitigate the threat of COVID-19 to vulnerable populations and to slow the spread of COVID-19 in North Carolina, Governor Roy Cooper declared a state of emergency in North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, President Trump declared the COVID-19 pandemic to be a national emergency; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the undersigned declared a state of emergency in the City of Winston-Salem (“Declaration”) due to COVID-19; and

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WHEREAS, the undersigned, after consulting with local health care officials about the impact of COVID-19 on the Winston-Salem community, issued an Amended Declaration referred to as a Stay-At-Home Order on March 25, 2020, which became effective on March 27, 2020, at 5:00 p.m.; and

WHEREAS, the undersigned, after consulting with local health care officials about the continued need to slow the spread of COVID-19, issued a Second Amended Declaration extending the Stay-At-Home Order until May 7, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the undersigned issued a Third Amended Declaration on April 29, 2020, rescinding the Stay-At-Home Order; and

WHEREAS, the undersigned issued a Fourth Amended Declaration on July 16, 2020, implementing a mask requirement for city facilities; and

WHEREAS, undersigned issued a Fifth Amended Declaration on November 24, 2020, emphasizing enforcement of the Governor's mask requirements and capacity limits; and

WHEREAS, in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, and for the purpose of protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the people of North Carolina, Governor Cooper issued a series of Executive Orders including 116-122, 124-125, 129-131, 133-136, 138-144, 146-153, 155-157, 161-165, 169-173, and 176-177; 180-181, 183-185, 188-193, 195, 197-198, 200, 204-207, 209-212 and 215; and

WHEREAS, on May 13, 2021, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") issued new Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People; and

WHEREAS, the Governor issued Executive Order 215 on May 14, 2021, effective May 24, 2021, at 1:30 p.m., lifting the face covering requirements in most settings

and lifting the capacity restrictions and social distancing requirements in all settings; and

WHEREAS, the undersigned, based upon recommendations of the CDC, lifted the face covering requirements for City owned and leased buildings and issued a Sixth Amended Declaration on May 21, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the CDC issued guidance advising that the Delta variant was very contagious and that face coverings should be worn indoors, regardless of one's vaccination status; and

WHEREAS, the undersigned issued the Seventh Amended Declaration on July 30, 2021, requiring face coverings to be worn indoors, regardless of vaccination status, in all City owned and leased facilities; and

WHEREAS, Winston-Salem saw a significant increase in the number of positive COVID-19 cases due to the Delta variant; and

WHEREAS, the undersigned, after consulting with the local medical community, issued an Eighth Amended Declaration implementing a City-wide face covering requirement on August 16, 2021, effective August 20, 2021, at 5: 30 p.m.; and

WHEREAS, the undersigned issued a Ninth Amended Declaration on August 20, 2021, after consulting with the local medical community, including Joshua Swift, the Forsyth County Public Health Director, and Dr. Christopher Ohl, an Infectious Disease Specialist, modifying the exemption relating to speeches, performances, and broadcasts by reducing the distance requirement from twenty (20) feet to ten (10) feet; and

WHEREAS, the undersigned, after consulting with the local medical community, including Joshua Swift, the Forsyth County Public Health Director, and Dr. Christopher Ohl, an Infectious Disease Specialist, issued on September 30, 2021 a Tenth Amended Declaration: (a) requiring all persons attending, participating in or working the

2021 Carolina Classic Fair at the Fairgrounds and (b) requiring, in support of the WSSU mask requirement, all persons attending and working in any manner the WSSU 2021 Football Season to wear a face covering or mask, regardless of vaccination status; and

WHEREAS, Forsyth County's positive COVID-19 test rate was 22.3% as of noon, January 4, 2022, which was up from 15.9% on Friday, December 31, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the City implemented internal measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and its variants throughout the City employee population including, but limited to, allowing employees, where possible, to work remotely; and

WHEREAS, the undersigned issued the Eleventh Amended Declaration on January 7, 2022, to encourage citizens and those wishing to access City services to use City Link, drive-thru services, online platforms, and other electronic means, including, but not limited to, telephone and email, where possible, and to temporarily limit in-person access to City Buildings by appointment only at least through the month of January 2022; and

WHEREAS, the City Manager was instructed to employ alternative means to providing an appointment if such cannot be provided safely; and

WHEREAS, the Forsyth County's COVID-19 positive test rate, at that time, had increased significantly since January 7, 2022; and

WHEREAS, after reviewing the COVID-19 positivity rate for Forsyth County, which, as of January 26, 2022, was 38.2%, and consulting with local medical professionals, the undersigned determined that was advisable to extend the Eleventh Amended Declaration; and issued the Twelfth Amended Declaration extending the Eleventh Amended Declaration until February 28, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the City continues to experience a concerning rate of positivity for COVID-19 and its variants within its employee population and significant absences from

work, thereby, justifying the extension of the Seventh Amended Declaration requiring face coverings to be worn indoors, regardless of vaccination status, in all City owned and leased facilities until March 31, 2022; however, to the extent it applies, the M.C. Benton Convention Center, the Winston-Salem Fairgrounds, Truist Stadium, Bowman Gray Stadium, and their related facilities, and any other facilities that were previously exempt therefrom should be exempt from the extended mask mandate for City owned and leased facilities; and

WHEREAS, because of the aforementioned concern, the Eleventh and Twelfth Amended Declarations regarding appointments should be extended until March 31, 2022, as well; and

WHEREAS, the overall COVID-19 positivity rate for Forsyth County has decreased; thereby, justifying the rescission of the City-wide mask mandate and ancillary mandates issued on August 16, 2021 (Eighth Amended Declaration), August 20, 2021 (Ninth Amended Declaration), and September 29, 2021 (Tenth Amended Declaration).

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority vested in me as the Mayor of the City of Winston-Salem under N.C.G.S. § 166A-19.31 and Chapter 18 (formerly Chapter 38) of the Winston-Salem Code of Ordinances, I hereby declare and proclaim the following:

Section 1. Reaffirmation. The Declaration of a State of Emergency issued on March 13, 2020, will continue until rescinded, within the jurisdiction of the City of Winston-Salem.

Section 2. Modification of the mask mandate for City owned and leased buildings and facilities. The Seventh Amended Declaration issued on July 30, 2021 is extended until March 31, 2022, unless rescinded before said date, except the M.C. Benton Convention Center, the Winston-Salem Fairgrounds, Truist Stadium, Bowman Gray

Stadium, and their related facilities, and any other facilities that were previously exempt are hereby exempt from the extension of the Seventh Amended Declaration imposing a mask mandate for City owned and leased facilities due to existing COVID-19 measures in place at these facilities, including, but not limited to, the placement of signs that encourage mask wearing. Except as modified herein, the list of City owned buildings and facilities to which this extended mandate applies may be found at: www.cityofws.org. The mask mandate for City owned and leased facilities will continue to apply to the Clark Campbell Transportation Center and related facilities. Passengers of the City's transit system must continue to wear a mask or face covering.

Section 3. Rescission of the City-wide mask mandate and ancillary mandates. The Eighth Amended Declaration issued on August 16, 2021, imposing a City-wide mask mandate is hereby lifted or rescinded. Furthermore, the Ninth Amended Declaration issued on August 20, 2021, and the Tenth Amended Declaration issued on September 29, 2021, are both rescinded.

Section 4. Extension of the Eleventh Amended Declaration and Twelfth Amended Declaration. Access to City Buildings. The Eleventh Amended Declaration issued on January 6, 2022, and the Twelfth Amended Declaration issued on January 28, 2022, are hereby incorporated herein and extended through March 31, 2022. The Winston-Salem Fairgrounds, Truist Stadium, the M.C. Benton Convention Center, and the Clark Campbell Transportation Center are exempt from said extension and this Thirteenth Amended Declaration due to existing COVID-19 measures in place at these facilities.

Section 5. Enforcement.

The City Manager's Office is hereby authorized to designate City staff and other authorized agents to enforce this Thirteenth Amended Declaration, including the issuance

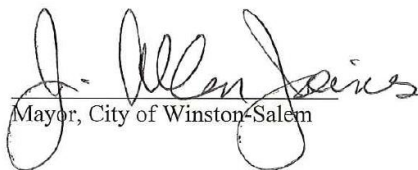
of civil penalties pursuant to Section 18-21(1) of the Winston-Salem Code of Ordinances, for any and all violations that are not remedied after voluntary compliance is sought. Persons violating this Declaration may be ordered to leave a City Building by the City Manager or others authorized by the City Manager.

Section 6. Applicability. This Thirteenth Amended Declaration shall apply within the City limits of the City of Winston-Salem.

Section 7. Distribution. I, hereby, order this Thirteenth Amended Declaration: (a) to be distributed to the news media and other organizations calculated to bring its contents to the attention of the general public; (b) to be posted on the City’s website; (c) to be filed with the City Clerk or Deputy City Clerk; and (d) to be distributed to others, as necessary, to ensure proper implementation of this Thirteenth Amended Declaration. The City Manager is hereby authorized to post the appropriate notices, consistent with this Thirteenth Amended Declaration, on City Buildings.

Section 8. Effective Date and Time. This Thirteenth Amended Declaration shall take effect Tuesday, March 1, 2022, at 12:01a.m. and shall remain in effect through March 31, 2022, unless extended, modified, or rescinded.

DECLARED, this, the 28th day of February 2022 at 3:12 p.m.


Mayor, City of Winston-Salem

Attest


City Clerk

