

RESOLUTION NO. 1383

A RESOLUTION REGARDING THE USE OF MASKS AND OTHER PROTECTIVE MEASURES TO REDUCE COMMUNITY TRANSMISSION OF THE COVID-19 VIRUS, AND PLEDGING SUPPORT TO THOSE PROPERTY OWNERS AND BUSINESSES WHO REQUIRE THE USE OF MASKS IN THE CITY OF BROKEN ARROW

WHEREAS, an outbreak of COVID-19 (Coronavirus) has resulted in an ongoing global pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on July 10, 2020, The Honorable Kevin Stitt, Governor of Oklahoma issued the Second Amended Executive Order 2020-20, declaring a state of emergency in all 77 counties within the State of Oklahoma due to the increased threat of COVID-19 and on January 13, 2021 issued Executive Department Ninth Amended Executive Order 2020-20 continuing the state of emergency due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic;

WHEREAS, COVID-19 cases have recently come down or are decreasing;

WHEREAS, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) as well as the Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH) recommend the continuation of proper social distancing procedures and other precautionary measures, specifically the proper use of masks covering the nose and mouth to prevent the spread of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, the CDC guidance on masks recommend that the general public wear cloth face coverings in public settings and when around people who don't live in the same household, especially when other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain; furthermore, cloth face coverings may help prevent people who have COVID-19 from spreading the virus to others; furthermore, cloth face coverings are most likely to reduce the spread of COVID-19 when they are widely used by people in public settings;

WHEREAS, in addition to the use of face coverings, the CDC also recommends people keep a minimum distance of six (6) feet from others, avoid touching their face, engage in regular handwashing and avoid group gatherings whenever possible;

WHEREAS, the CDC guidance recommends that the general public should also wear face coverings in all outdoor settings where there is exposure to non-household members, unless there exists ample space of six (6) feet or more to practice physical distancing;

WHEREAS, exemptions for children of a certain age and individuals with disabilities who cannot wear a mask as outlined by CDC guidelines and health professionals are recognized;

WHEREAS, business owners have the right to establish and enforce health safety requirements for individuals entering their place of business which may include the requirement to wear a mask;

WHEREAS, business owners have the right to seek assistance from law enforcement in instances where individuals refuse to comply with the standards established by the business owner;

WHEREAS, the City of Broken Arrow wishes to encourage the use of masks/facial coverings in workplaces, retail stores, businesses, restaurants & bars, fitness centers, places of worship, businesses providing personal services, and medical and healthcare facilities and wishes to pledge its support to those property owners and businesses requiring masks/facial coverings on their property.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BROKEN ARROW, OKLAHOMA, THAT:

1. It is encouraged that Broken Arrow citizens and those visiting Broken Arrow who are able to wear a mask should properly do so while in public ;
2. The City of Broken Arrow and the City of Broken Arrow Police Department, pledge their support to those places requiring the use of masks/face coverings and pledge to provide assistance in instances where individuals refuse to comply with the standards established by the business owners or property owners as allowed by Oklahoma State Statute and the City of Broken Arrow Ordinances;
3. It is encouraged that, in addition to the use of masks by those who can, Broken Arrow residents and those visiting Broken Arrow take further steps to reduce community transmission of COVID-19 by keeping six (6) feet of physical distance from others, avoiding touching their faces, engaging in regular handwashing and avoiding group gatherings whenever possible.

This Resolution is approved in open meeting by the City Council of the City of Broken Arrow on this 16th day of February, 2021.

MAYOR

ATTEST: _____
(seal) CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

CITY ATTORNEY