

Emergency Declaration – Summary
March 19, 2020

The Chandler City Code sets forth the emergency management powers and scope of organization for the City of Chandler, including its residents, visitors, and businesses. The design of Chapter 6, Emergency Management, is to “[r]educe the vulnerability of people and the community to damage, injury, and loss of life and property resulting from natural or manmade catastrophes.” C.M.C. 6-1(A). In the code, the City Manager is appointed as the Emergency Director. C.M.C. 6-2. The authority to declare a local emergency is vested in the Mayor. A.R.S. § 26.311 and C.M.C. 6-3.2. Mayor Hartke issued a Proclamation Declaration of Local Emergency on March 19, 2020.

Question: What does Chandler’s Declaration mean for the community?

Answer: The Declaration urges businesses and individuals to voluntarily agree to socially distance and take precautions to avoid community spread of COVID-19. It encourages businesses and residents to review and implement the Center for Disease Control (“CDC”) guidelines on COVID-19 and President Trump’s Coronavirus Guidelines for America: 15 Days to Slow the Spread.

Question: Does Chandler’s Declaration make businesses eligible for state or federal funding?

Answer: Chandler’s Declaration does not provide for funding nor does Chandler have the legal ability to make businesses eligible for state or federal funding. However, funding may be eligible from either the state or federal governments. We encourage businesses to continue to monitor the state and federal guidelines and announcements.

Question: How does Chandler’s Declaration affect private businesses?

Answer: Chandler’s Declaration does not affect contracts between individuals and businesses or mandate businesses to close. Chandler’s Declaration does not activate force majeure contract provisions and it is recommended that you consult your legal counsel as it relates to particular circumstances.

Question: Do I have to close my business?

Answer: No but it is strongly recommended that businesses implement the CDC recommendations and guidance on how to help reduce the spread of COVID-19. It does ask for businesses selling food to voluntarily convert to the use of delivery, window, or drive-through service as well as to avoid having groups of 10 or more gather in dining or other areas.

Question: Are gatherings of groups with less than ten people okay?

Answer: At this point, groups of fewer than ten people fall within the CDC guidelines. However, we encourage you to continue to monitor state and federal health guidelines.

Question: How can I obtain more information on City updates and COVID-19?

Answer: Please visit Chandler’s website (chandleraz.gov) for City updates and the Arizona Department of Health Services website (azdhs.gov) for information on COVID-19.