## A PROCLAMATION DURING A LOCAL DISASTER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY IN THE COUNTY OF NACOGDOCHES, TEXAS

WHEREAS, a Public Health Emergency was declared for the United States, and a State Disaster Declaration due to this Public Health Emergency created by the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) was declared by the State of Texas; and

WHEREAS, on March 20, 2020, the County Judge of Nacogdoches County, Texas issued a declaration of local disaster for Nacogdoches County, Texas, due to the emergency situation posed by the spread of COVID-19 and advocating that certain emergency protective measures may be taken; and

**WHEREAS**, over 369 cases of COVID-19 have been detected in Nacogdoches County, Texas; 37 of which have been identified in the last 4 days; and

WHEREAS, Nacogdoches County, Texas, continues to see a significant increase in COVID-19 positive cases, and the County has been advised by health officials that face masks and social distancing, and the continued implementation of current Texas Department of State Health Services ("DSHS") recommendations are necessary to curb this increase and prevent the local and regional hospitals and health care providers from being overwhelmed; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governor's Executive Order GA-28 signed June 26, 2020 sets forth new requirements and impacts a local jurisdiction's authority under Chapter 418 of the Texas Government Code currently in effect:

## NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNTY JUDGE OF NACOGDOCHES COUNTY, TEXAS:

**SECTION 1.** All citizens over the age of ten (10), while in public, are asked to voluntarily wear face coverings that cover their nose and mouth when within six (6) feet of others not of their household and all persons should follow the health protocols from Texas Department of State Health Services ("DSHS"), and practice social distancing while in public within boundaries of Nacogdoches County, Texas.

**SECTION 2.** Businesses are requested to adopt voluntary policies regarding the wearing of face coverings for employees and visitors to such business while inside the business and continue to promote safe social distancing while frequenting Nacogdoches County, Texas businesses, and continue to follow all Texas DSHS recommendations. Exceptions to the above are anticipated for patrons engaged in eating or drinking while inside a food related business.

**SECTION 3.** Consistent with Executive Order GA-28 issued by Governor Greg Abbott, no civil or criminal penalty may be imposed on individuals for failure to wear a face covering. However, in keeping with the Governor's Executive Order, businesses are not precluded from requiring customers to follow additional hygiene measures when obtaining services.

**SECTION 4**. This proclamation shall take effect at 12:00 a.m. on July 1, 2020, and continue until either terminated by the Nacogdoches, Texas County Judge or until 12:00 a.m. on July 8, 2020; whichever occurs first.

PROCLAIMED this <u>304</u> day of June, 2020.

**COUNTY OF NACOGDOCHES, TEXAS** 

GREG SOWELL, COUNTY JUDGE