



RESOLUTION NO. 40620

1 BY REQUEST OF MAYOR WOODARDS AND COUNCIL MEMBERS HUNTER,
2 THOMS, AND USHKA

3 A RESOLUTION encouraging the residents of the City of Tacoma to use face
4 coverings or masks when in public spaces.

5 WHEREAS, on February 29, 2020, the Governor of the state of Washington
6 issued Proclamation 20-05, declaring a public health state of emergency for all
7 counties in Washington State due to the novel coronavirus COVID-19, and

8 WHEREAS, on March 23, 2020, the Governor issued Proclamation 20-25
9 which extended the state of emergency, established the "Stay Home, Stay
10 Healthy" order, and prohibited all people from leaving their homes except for those
11 engaged in or obtaining essential services, and
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13 WHEREAS, on March 12, 2020, the City of Tacoma proclaimed a State of
14 Emergency related to COVID-19, and

15 WHEREAS the Governor subsequently provided a Safe Start four-phase
16 recovery plan to restart business and modify physical distancing requirements
17 when disease activity is adequately suppressed and readiness in key areas is
18 achieved, and
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20 WHEREAS, on June 5, 2020, the Secretary of Health approved Pierce
21 County's application to move to Phase 2 of the state's Safe Start recovery plan,
22 which allows for modified restrictions on businesses and other areas of public life,
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WHEREAS, effective June 8, 2020, the Governor required all employees to wear face coverings at work if they are not working alone or cannot maintain physical distance, and

WHEREAS, effective June 26, the Governor will require statewide mandatory face coverings when in a public space, and

WHEREAS there will be specific exemptions for those who may be adversely impacted by wearing a facial covering, and these exemptions include those with certain medical conditions and children under the age of two, who should not wear a face covering, and

WHEREAS children aged two, three, and four are encouraged, but not required, to wear a face covering in public with the assistance and supervision of an adult, and

WHEREAS individuals may remove face coverings under certain circumstances, including while eating or drinking at a restaurant; while communicating with a person who is deaf or hard of hearing; and while outdoors in public areas, provided that a distance of six feet is maintained from people who are not members of their household, and

WHEREAS, in order to protect the health of our residents and our economy, it is vital for our community to commit to acting in ways that avoid risking our hard-fought progress, and even with the relaxed restrictions, it is more important than ever to engage in activities to prevent the spread of disease, such as maintaining physical distance of six feet from others, practicing good hygiene, staying home when sick, and wearing a face covering, and



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WHEREAS cases of COVID-19 in Pierce County are once again on the rise, with an infection rate of 31.5 per 100,000 residents in the last 14 days, as of June 24, 2020, and

WHEREAS, given the widespread community transmission of COVID-19, wearing a face covering over the nose and mouth designed to prevent the spread of respiratory droplets provides an extra layer of protection, especially when one cannot easily keep physical distance from others, and

WHEREAS wearing a face covering protects the health of others in our community, because a significant portion of people who have COVID-19 do not show symptoms and can spread the virus before realizing they are sick, unknowingly endangering the lives of loved ones and essential workers, and

WHEREAS the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) and Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department recommend that all people wear face coverings when in public, and

WHEREAS the City of Tacoma received 70,000 masks from our Sister City of Fuzhou, China, and is partnering with local community groups to distribute them to communities within the City in the greatest need through organizations such as shelters for the unhoused, Tacoma Public Schools, community and senior centers, Tacoma community food banks, home healthcare providers, and day care providers, and

WHEREAS public health data shows infection rates disproportionately impact marginalized communities, including American Indian/Alaskan Native,



Asian, Black or African American, Hispanic, and Native Hawaiian or Pacific
1 Islander communities, and

2 WHEREAS, according to the CDC, long-standing systemic health and
3 social inequities have put some members of racial and ethnic minority groups at
4 increased risk of getting COVID-19 or experiencing severe illness, regardless of
5 age, and
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7 WHEREAS, of the 70,000 masks received, 13,800 will specifically be
8 distributed to underrepresented communities most affected by COVID-19, after
9 consultation with and in coordination with community organizations representing
10 and serving these communities, and
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12 WHEREAS the City partners with the Tacoma-Pierce County Health
13 Department to coordinate and amplify public health messages, including messages
14 around wearing masks and practicing social distancing; Now, Therefore,

15 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TACOMA**

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17 Section 1. That residents of the City of Tacoma are encouraged to comply
18 with Governor Inslee's order to wear face coverings or masks when they are in
19 outdoor or indoor public areas, when they do not meet the exemption criteria,
20 especially when they cannot maintain a physical distance of six feet from others.

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22 Section 2. That the City Council will use its influence and communication
23 channels to encourage all residents of the City to wear face coverings in public,
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1 practice good hygiene and sanitation, limit travel, and follow recommendations to
2 reduce the spread of COVID-19.

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4 Adopted _____

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Mayor

7 Attest:

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9 City Clerk

10 Approved as to form:

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City Attorney

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