

**EMERGENCY DECLARATION AND ORDINANCE #20-06**

**A DECLARATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY ARISING BECAUSE OF COVID-19; AN ORDINANCE TAKING IMMEDIATE EMERGENCY MEASURES BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DUBLIN**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Dublin has experienced an event of critical significance as a result of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) disease (“COVID-19”), and

**WHEREAS**, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, (the “CDC”) has indicated that COVID-19 is a new and contagious respiratory disease caused by a novel (new) coronavirus that was first detected in China and which has now been detected in more than 100 locations around the world, including the United States of America; and

**WHEREAS**, the World Health Organization (“WHO”), has reported that as of March 23, 2020, there exists in the world more than 300,000 cases and more than 14,510 deaths due to COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, the number of confirmed cases and deaths from COVID-19 is escalating rapidly, internationally, nationally, and locally; and

**WHEREAS**, WHO has officially declared the spread and outbreak of COVID-19 a global pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, based upon the experience of other local governments in Georgia, a growing number of other cases are likely to occur; and

**WHEREAS**, the President of the United States declared a National Public Health Emergency of March 13, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governor of the State of Georgia declared a State Public Health Emergency on March 14, 2020 and urged “local officials to do what’s in the best interests of their communities to keep people safe and stop the spread of coronavirus” on March 19, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, the Chief Justice of the Georgia Supreme Court has declared a judicial state of emergency due to COVID-19 and issued an amended order dated March 14, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, the CDC and the President of the United States have recommended that any gathering of over 10 people be discontinued or prohibited; and

**WHEREAS**, public health experts, including those at the CDC and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) have implored that preventing further community spread of COVID-19 is vital to the health of the nation; and

**WHEREAS**, the Georgia Municipal Association has recommended that local government leaders to declare a state of emergency in their respective jurisdictions and impose regulations aimed at prohibiting the spread of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Council have been made aware by local emergency and health officials that as of March 24, 2020 there have been five confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Laurens County; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Carlos del Rio, a distinguished professor of medicine and global health at Emory University, has confirmed the urgency with which local governments should act in order to prevent COVID-19 from crippling our state and local healthcare systems; and

**WHEREAS**, nationwide, other cities, states, and counties have imposed temporary restrictions related to public and private gatherings of people in order to stop large numbers of people from congregating or staying in close proximity during the COVID-19 pandemic; and