



Legislation Text

File #: 21-198, **Version:** 1

ACTION REQUESTED:

Communication from the Mayor and Corporation Counsel with a Request to APPROVE the DECLARATION OF LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY.

BACKGROUND: In late 2019, a new and significant outbreak of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) occurred. COVID-19 is a novel virus that can cause severe acute respiratory illness that can spread among people and present symptoms similar to influenza. Despite efforts to contain the disease, the World Health Organization (WHO) and Centers for Disease Control (CDC) indicate it will continue to spread. On March 13, 2020, the President issued a declaration of national emergency in response to COVID-19. On March 20, 2020 the Governor of Illinois issued Executive Order 2020-10 issuing a Stay-at-Home Order for the State for the preservation of public health and safety and to ensure that the State's healthcare delivery system is capable of serving those who are sick. The Governor has issued additional Executive Orders regarding the closure and opening of various businesses, limitations on large gatherings and the wearing of face coverings. At meetings between March 18, 2020 and the present, the Mayor of Peoria issued a Declaration of Local State of Emergency invoking the powers granted pursuant to the Illinois Municipal Code, the Illinois Emergency Management Act and Ordinance Section 7-35.2. The State of Illinois entered Phase 5 of the State's re-opening plan on Friday, June 11, 2021. However, there are existing Executive Orders in effect until July 24, 2021, suspending certain provisions of the Open Meetings Act, among other items. Some remote meeting procedures may be utilized until the expiration of the Governor's executive order.

The Mayor's Declaration of Emergency must be renewed after each regularly or special scheduled council meeting. The Mayor intends to renew the Declaration of Emergency to include the following:

1. Implement the re-opening of City Hall and other public buildings to allow public access in line with state and federal public health guidelines.
2. Evaluate and create temporary procedures for public meetings to be conducted remotely.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: To be determined. Any and all FEMA reimbursable costs are being tracked and will be submitted with a request for reimbursement. Any funds available under the stimulus bill(s) will be pursued for all emergency costs incurred.

NEIGHBORHOOD CONCERNS: None.

IMPACT IF APPROVED: The Mayor's Declaration of Emergency will continue to allow changes as noted above.

IMPACT IF DENIED: The changes noted above could still be implemented by the Mayor over the Council's objection.

ALTERNATIVES: N/A

EEO CERTIFICATION NUMBER: N/A

WHICH OF THE GOALS IDENTIFIED IN THE COUNCIL'S 2017 - 2032 STRATEGIC PLAN DOES THIS RECOMMENDATION ADVANCE?

1. Safe Peoria

WHICH CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTOR(S) FROM THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DOES THIS RECOMMENDATION IMPLEMENT?

1. Have an efficient government.

DEPARTMENT: Legal