

**DECLARATION OF LOCAL PUBLIC
HEALTH AND ECONOMIC EMERGENCY
LA JUNTA, COLORADO**

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the worldwide outbreak of Novel Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) a “pandemic”, and on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States issued a Federal Emergency Declaration for the Coronavirus Pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the Novel Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic is causing widespread human and economic impacts to unincorporated Otero County, Colorado; and

WHEREAS, the Otero County Health Department has proactively been working to respond to this pandemic by activating their National Incident Management System Structure, deploying the Department Operations Center, medical provider support/outreach, community support/outreach; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 Pandemic is causing a public health emergency in the City of La Junta by generating multiple disruptions and impacts on healthcare infrastructure and continuity of government that may cause delays or interrupt capacity to deliver necessary services; and

WHEREAS, the Otero County Office of Emergency Management has advised the Board of County Commissioners of Otero (Board) and other governmental agencies operating with the City of a health and economic emergency (as the term is defined in the Colorado Disaster Emergency Act, §24-33.5-701, *et seq.*, C.R.S.), to-wit: the occurrence of imminent threat of widespread or severe damage, injury, or loss of life or property resulting from the COVID-19 Pandemic requiring emergency action to avert danger or damage; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate and in the interests of the public health and safety to rapidly address community spread of COVID-19 and subsequent cascading impacts such as economic distress, and would further protect the health and safety of the public to declare an emergency in the jurisdiction of the City of La Junta; and

WHEREAS, the cost and magnitude of responding to and recovering from the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic is far in excess of the City of La Junta’s available resources; and

WHEREAS, the economic cost and magnitude of the State-ordered closing of all restaurants, bars, gyms and theaters by Governor Jared Polis will have a devastating impact on businesses within the City of La Junta; and

WHEREAS, declaration of a local emergency will assist and permit access to local emergency funds, Federal and State assistance, adjustments to policies, procedures and ordinances to ensure the public’s health and welfare; and

WHEREAS, an Emergency Declaration allows the City of La Junta to be able to take proactive measures and activate an Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) to better respond to the impacts of the COVID-19 event; and

WHEREAS, the City of La Junta has activated its Department Operations Center, and the City Council now seeks to declare a local emergency, in addition to other steps outlined below, to address the COVID-19 outbreak; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor of the City of La Junta, as principal executive officer of the City of La Junta, is authorized to unilaterally declare a local emergency pursuant to §24-33.5-709(1), C.R.S., and to activate the emergency management and operations plans and resolutions of the City of La Junta.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. There is hereby declared to be a local emergency in La Junta, Colorado, to-wit: the occurrence of imminent threat of widespread or severe damage, injury or loss of life or property, resulting from the COVID-19 Pandemic requiring emergency action to avert danger or damage.

2. The effect of this Declaration shall be to activate the response and recovery aspects of any and all applicable local and inter-jurisdictional emergency plans and to authorize the furnishing of aid and assistance under such plans.

3. That the principal executive officers of all departments of the City affected by said emergency are urged to proclaim similar declarations and to cooperate with all governmental agencies as necessary to address the emergency conditions.

4. That this Declaration shall be effective upon the date and time given below, and shall remain in effect for a period of seven days unless rescinded or extended by the City Council of the City of La Junta prior to expiration.

5. That true copies shall be promptly filed with the Clerk of the City of La Junta, Otero County Clerk and Recorder and the Colorado Division of Emergency Management, and shall be promptly distributed to the appropriate representatives of the news media.

ADOPTED this 20th day of March, 2020, at 10:00 a.m.

City of La Junta



Jeffri Pruyn, Mayor