

## **ORDINANCE**

### **NO.**

An Ordinance of the Columbus Council regarding the use of masks or face coverings in public during the COVID-19 public health emergency; and for other purposes.

**WHEREAS**, on August 15, 2020, Governor Kemp issued Executive Order 08.15.20.01 which specifically offers guidelines for local government mask mandates;

**WHEREAS**, in order to exercise the full authority delegated to local governments to require facial coverings or masks by Governor Kemp's Executive Order 08.15.20.01, this Council adopted Ordinance No.20- 043 providing for face mask requirements in both private businesses and in public facilities;

**WHEREAS**, the authority granted in Executive Order 08.15.20.01 was conditioned on a prevalence of confirmed cases of COVID-19 over the previous fourteen (14) days that is equal to or greater than one hundred (100) cases per one hundred thousand (100,000) people according to the Georgia Department of Public Health;

**WHEREAS**, the prevalence of COVID-19 cases for the previous fourteen (14) days has been under one hundred (100) cases per one hundred thousand people for more than a week; and

**WHEREAS**, on May 13, 2020 the United State Center for Disease Control issued guidance stating that it was safe for vaccinated individuals to go without masks in most situations.

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA HEREBY ORDAINS:**

### **SECTION 1.**

Section 1. of Ordinance No. 20-043, which established a mask mandate for persons entering private business facilities open to the public, is hereby repealed in its entirety.

### **SECTION 2.**

Notwithstanding Section 1. above, in an effort to protect public employees and due to the low vaccination rate in Columbus, Georgia, masks or face coverings are still mandated to be worn by all persons entering any indoor building or facility of the Columbus, Georgia Consolidated Government. Any person entering such buildings or facilities who do not follow posted face covering and distancing requirements may be refused admittance to such building or

facility unless the person’s purpose for entering the building is to vote, a health condition prevents the of a mask, or the person is a child under 10.

**SECTION 3.**

This Ordinance shall be effective immediately and shall remain in effect until revised or repealed by Executive Order of the Mayor or further action of this Council.

**SECTION 4.**

All Ordinances and parts of Ordinances in conflict with this Ordinance are hereby repealed.

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Introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia held on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of May , 2021, introduced a second time at a regular meeting of said Council held on the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2021 and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of \_\_\_\_\_ members of said Council.

Councilor Allen	voting _____
Councilor Barnes	voting _____
Councilor Crabb	voting _____
Councilor Davis	voting _____
Councilor Garrett	voting _____
Councilor House	voting _____
Councilor Huff	voting _____
Councilor Thomas	voting _____
Councilor Tucker	voting _____
Councilor Woodson	voting _____

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Sandra T. Davis  
Clerk of Council

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B. H. “Skip” Henderson, III  
Mayor