



PROCLAMATION

Declaring a State of Emergency for the City of Sweet Home

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the United States and the Oregon State Constitution are the cornerstones of governance for the freedom and rights of our citizens and the grounds for legislative actions; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Sweet Home has the authority granted under ORS Chapter 401 and Sweet Home Municipal Code Chapter 2.52. that provide direction to the City, its officials, and others in the event of an emergency that exists within the City; and

WHEREAS, Sweet Home Municipal Code Section 2.52.030 designates the City Manager as the City of Sweet Home Emergency Program Manager; and

WHEREAS, Sweet Home Municipal Code Section 2.52.040 (A) empowers the Emergency Program Manager to request the Sweet Home City Council to proclaim the existence of a "state of emergency" for the City of Sweet Home; and

WHEREAS, existing conditions related to the COVID-19 Emergency Orders warrant the proclamation of emergency, as defined by Sweet Home Municipal Code Section 2.52.020; and

WHEREAS, the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) is a respiratory disease that may result in serious illness or death and is easily transmissible from person to person; and

WHEREAS, on March 8, 2020, Governor Kate Brown declared that a state of emergency exists in all counties in the State of Oregon due to the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the State and implemented Emergency Orders in response to combat the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, we as a municipality have no legal ability to summarily defy the Governor's Emergency Executive Orders, mandates, guidelines and enforcement by State agencies, and therefore cannot protect any local business from State-directed targeting, repercussions and penalties if such local business personally chooses to; and,

WHEREAS, social distancing and prolonged isolation are proven to create a number of mental health issues such as anxiety and depression, sometimes pushing individuals toward suicide; and,

WHEREAS, the compounding and ever changing mandates have added to the stress of individuals within our state, and,

WHEREAS, social distancing and prolonged isolation, combined with unemployment and other stressors, increased cases of domestic abuse calls to the Sweet Home Police Department by 24% in 2020; and,

WHEREAS, the Sweet Home Police Department recorded a 131% increase in mental health calls in

2020 over 2019 and is on track to record a 288% increase in mental health calls for 2021 over 2019; and,

WHEREAS, the City requires additional assistance, and a formal declaration of emergency allows additional resources to flow to the City in a timely fashion; and,

WHEREAS, we believe in the kindness, compassion, and common sense of our citizens and businesses to help protect the most fragile and susceptible in our community; and,

WHEREAS, the State of Oregon owes a duty to its constituents to address the mental health crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic mandates with increased funding and resources for mental health care throughout the state of Oregon, especially for rural Oregonians; and,

WHEREAS, the State of Oregon owes a duty to its constituents to address the rise in criminal activity correlating with the COVID-19 pandemic mandates through increased funding and resources directly to local jurisdictions to help recruit, hire, and train a more qualified police force, especially for rural Oregon communities; and,

WHEREAS, the State of Oregon should look to the future and fully fund an initiative for DPSST to train our future police officers to better equip them to deal with mental health issues.

WHEREAS, fear is a tool of untruth, manipulation, and control; and,

WHEREAS, the City Council requests emergency Executive Orders implemented by the Governor lasting more than thirty (30) days require the approval of the Oregon House and Senate before implementation; and finally,

WHEREAS, Sweet Home City Council met and passed by resolution this Proclamation declaring a "state of emergency" for the City of Sweet Home.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Greg Mahler, Mayor of the City of Sweet Home, do hereby proclaim with City Council authorization, a "state of emergency" in the City of Sweet Home; and that during the existence of said emergency, the powers, functions, and duties of the Sweet Home Emergency Program Manager and the emergency organization of this city shall be those prescribed by state law and by ordinances and resolutions of this City. Said "state of emergency" shall exist for a period of time during which conditions resulting from the COVID-19 Executive Orders exist which have given rise to the Proclamation. The local emergency shall continue until terminated by the Mayor of the City of Sweet Home, State of Oregon.

FURTHER, the City of Sweet Home recognizes individual choice related to masks and vaccines. We believe that citizens are fully capable of making the private, individual healthcare and lifestyle decisions themselves; and,

FINALLY, the City Council believes if a vaccination mandate is imposed by the Governor that it

will decimate the number of emergency services employees and especially volunteer firefighters, negatively impacting our community.

PROCLAIMED this 7th day of September 2021.

Mayor

ATTEST: _____
City Manager – Ex Officio City Recorder
Emergency Program Manager for the City of Sweet Home