

An Administrative Order
Office of the Mayor
City of Atlanta

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Administrative Order No. 2020- 37

**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
AN ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER**

AN ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER DIRECTING THE CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TO COORDINATE WITH THE CHIEF HEALTH OFFICER TO DEVELOP AND PUBLICIZE A REPORT ON COVID-19 RACIAL AND ETHNIC DISPARITIES IN THE CITY OF ATLANTA; TO CONVENE AN ADVISORY COUNCIL OF COMMUNITY PARTNERS TO OUTLINE RECOMMENDATIONS TO ADDRESS THE COVID-19 RACIAL AND ETHNIC DISPARITIES IDENTIFIED IN THE REPORT; TO ESTABLISH A COVID-19 MASK CAMPAIGN TO PROMOTE AWARENESS ABOUT COVID-19 DISPARITIES AMONG THE MOST VULNERABLE POPULATIONS IN THE CITY OF ATLANTA; AND TO SCHEDULE AND PLAN A SERIES OF VIRTUAL TOWN HALL DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING THE EFFECTS OF COVID-19.

WHEREAS, like much of the world the United States, the State of Georgia, and the City of Atlanta are currently responding to an outbreak of respiratory disease caused by a novel coronavirus named “SARS-CoV-2” and the disease it causes named “coronavirus disease 2019” (abbreviated “COVID-19”); and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020 the World Health Organization declared the COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020 the President of the United States announced a national emergency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, which included two emergency declarations: one under the National Emergencies Act and one under the Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act; and

WHEREAS, on March 14, 2020 Governor Brian Kemp signed a public health state of emergency to address the COVID-19 pandemic through assisting health and emergency management officials across Georgia by deploying all available resources for the mitigation and treatment of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, on March 16, I declared there to be an emergency in existence within the City of Atlanta pursuant to Section 2-181(a) of the City of Atlanta Code of Ordinances; and

WHEREAS, the Center for Disease Control (“CDC”) has issued guidance on the emerging and rapidly evolving situation of the COVID-19 pandemic, including how to protect oneself from this illness; and

WHEREAS, social distancing is recommended by the CDC to prevent the continued spreading of this illness in the community; and

WHEREAS, the CDC also advises that the use of masks or cloth face coverings will slow the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, wearing a face covering is important not only to protect oneself, but also to avoid unknowingly harming others, especially given that many people who go into public may have COVID-19 without knowing it because they have no symptoms; and

WHEREAS, requiring the use of masks or face coverings is a targeted response that can combat the threat to public health using the least restrictive means, and if people follow this requirement, more extreme measures may be avoided; and

WHEREAS, according to the CDC¹, long-standing systemic health and social inequities have put many people from racial and ethnic minority groups at increased risk of getting sick and dying from COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, while the term “racial and ethnic minority groups” as used by the CDC includes people of color with a wide variety of backgrounds and experiences, the CDC acknowledges that some experiences are common to many people within these groups, and social determinants of health have historically prevented them from having fair opportunities for economic, physical, and emotional health; and

WHEREAS, the CDC acknowledges evidence that racial and ethnic minority groups are being disproportionately affected by COVID-19, and that inequities in the social determinants of health, such as poverty and healthcare access, affecting these groups are interrelated and influence a wide range of health and quality-of-life outcomes and risks; and

WHEREAS; the CDC recommends that to achieve health equity, barriers must be removed so that everyone has a fair opportunity to be as healthy as possible; and

WHEREAS, according to the CDC, some of the many inequities in social determinants of health that put racial and ethnic minority groups at increased risk of getting sick and dying from COVID-19 include discrimination, healthcare access and utilization, occupation, educational, income, and wealth gaps, and housing; and

WHEREAS, the CDC has concluded that these factors and others are associated with more COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and deaths in areas where racial and ethnic minority groups live, learn, work, play, and worship, that they have also contributed to higher rates of some medical conditions that increase one’s risk of severe illness from COVID-19.

WHEREAS, in addition, the CDC acknowledged that community strategies to slow the spread of COVID-19 may cause unintentional harm, such as lost wages, reduced access to services, and increased stress, for some racial and ethnic minority groups; and

WHEREAS, acknowledging that racism is a public health crisis that contributes to the COVID-19 racial and ethnic disparities in Atlanta, I am hereby directing the Chief Operating Officer to Coordinate with the Chief Health Officer to develop and publicize a report on COVID-19 racial and ethnic disparities in the City of Atlanta; to convene an advisory council of community partners to outline recommendations to address the COVID-19 racial and ethnic disparities identified in the report; to establish a COVID-19 mask campaign to promote awareness about COVID-19 disparities among the

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/health-equity/race-ethnicity.html>

most vulnerable populations in the City of Atlanta; and to schedule and plan a series of virtual town hall discussions concerning the effects of COVID-19; and

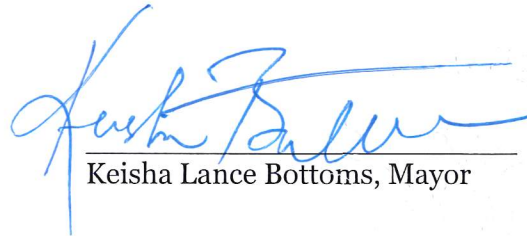
WHEREAS, the first such town hall discussion shall concern COVID-19 and emotional wellness among women, which shall take place in conjunction with World Mental Health Day.

NOW, THEREFORE, BY THE POWER VESTED IN ME AS MAYOR OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA, pursuant to Section 3-104 of the City of Atlanta Charter and Section 2-182(4) of the City of Atlanta Code of Ordinances, it is hereby ordered that:

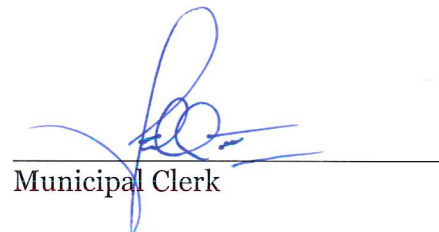
Section 1. The Chief Operating Officer shall coordinate with the Chief Health Officer to develop and publicize a report on COVID-19 racial and ethnic disparities in the City of Atlanta; to convene an advisory council of community partners to outline recommendations to address the COVID-19 racial and ethnic disparities identified in the report; to establish a COVID-19 mask campaign to promote awareness about COVID-19 disparities among the most vulnerable populations in the City of Atlanta; and to schedule and plan a series of virtual town hall discussions concerning the effects of COVID-19.

Section 2. The first town hall discussion in accordance herewith shall concern COVID-19 and emotional wellness among women, and shall take place in conjunction with World Mental Health Day.

SO ORDERED this 11th day of August, 2020.


Keisha Lance Bottoms, Mayor

ATTESTED:


Municipal Clerk