

RESOLUTION NO. R-79-20

A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY OF FORT SMITH ENCOURAGING THE USE OF MASKS IN RELATION TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

WHEREAS, An outbreak of COVID-19 (coronavirus) has resulted in an ongoing global pandemic; and

WHEREAS, On June 18, 2020, Executive Order 20-37, declared that the emergency declared pursuant to Executive Order 20-03, and its amendments was terminated, and that the public health and disaster emergency and declaration of the State of Arkansas as a disaster area resulting from the state-wide impact of Covid-19 was declared anew, and would be effective for sixty (60) days unless renewed; and

WHEREAS, On June 19, 2020, the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH), released guidance regarding the use of face masks/coverings by the general public which asserts that ample evidence exists to support the efficacy of wearing face masks to prevent the transmission of Covid-19 including a study funded by the World Health Organization (WHO); and

WHEREAS, the afore-mentioned ADH guidance on masks recommends that the general public should wear face coverings in ALL indoor environments where they are exposed to non-household members and distancing of 6 feet or more cannot be assured. This includes, but is not limited to, workplaces, retail stores, businesses, places of worship, courtrooms, jails/prisons, schools, healthcare facilities, and other people's homes; and

WHEREAS, the afore-mentioned ADH guidance recommends that the general public should also wear face coverings in ALL outdoor settings where there is exposure to non-household members, unless there exists ample space of 6 feet or more to practice physical distancing; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) encourages the use of cloth face coverings to curb the spread of Covid-19.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF FORT SMITH, ARKANSAS:

The City of Fort Smith does not attempt to mandate the use of masks/facial coverings, nor does the city attempt to penalize those who choose to abstain from wearing such coverings. However, the City of Fort Smith strongly encourages all of those who may safely wear facial coverings to do so in the effort to help curb the spread of Covid-19, in particular to protect the most vulnerable members of our state, as well as to ensure that the hard won progress made by the citizens of Arkansas in reopening our shared economy is preserved.

This Resolution adopted this 7th day of July, 2020

Attest:
Shuni Gard
City Clerk

[Signature]
Mayor

Approved as to form:
[Signature]
NPR