



COLUMBUS CONSOLIDATED GOVERNMENT

Georgia's First Consolidated Government

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B.H. "Skip" Henderson, III
Mayor

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MEDIA RELEASE

January 10, 2022

Executive Order 22-01

Attached, please find an Executive Order of the Mayor permitting virtual meetings of the Columbus City Council and Columbus' Boards and Commissions due to the rapid increase in Omicron COVID-19 cases in the Columbus area.

Mayor's Executive Order 22-01

LOCAL EMERGENCY ORDER

WHEREAS, Columbus, Georgia, with the appearance of the Omicron variant of the Coronavirus disease ("COVID-19") in the United States, Columbus has experienced an event of critical significance which has continued to worsen over time; and

WHEREAS, on June 30, 2021, the last Public Health State of Emergency declared by Governor Brian Kemp in Georgia expired; and

WHEREAS, on August 31, 2021, the Columbus Council adopted Resolution No.301-21, which delegated to me the power to take any further steps necessary to respond to changing conditions in the COVID-19 outbreak in Columbus, Georgia; and

WHEREAS, the Charter of the Columbus, Georgia, grants to the Mayor the power to protect the safety, health, peace, security, and general welfare of the inhabitants of the Consolidated Government. Columbus Charter §3-104 (2); and

WHEREAS, according to the Georgia Department of Public Health Daily Status Report for Monday, January 10, 2022, Georgia, has seen a resurgence in the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19, including 1,936 new confirmed cases per 100,000 residents during the last 14 days in Columbus, Georgia/ Muscogee County; and

WHEREAS, the CDC indicates that there is evidence of increased community transmission due to the Omicron variant in Georgia; and

WHEREAS, the CDC and public health officials expect that additional cases of COVID- 19 will continue to be identified in the coming weeks; and

WHEREAS, taking measures to control outbreaks minimizes the risk to the public, maintains the health and the safety of the residents of Columbus, and limits the spread of infection in our communities and within the healthcare delivery system; and

WHEREAS, a significant number of positive tests, illness and close exposures to the COVID-19 virus are making it difficult for the Columbus Council and many Boards and Commissions of the Columbus Consolidated Government to have a quorum present in person to convene a meeting in accordance with O.C.G.A. 50-14-1; and

WHEREAS, O.C.G.A. §38-3-51, authorizes the Mayor to use emergency powers set forth in O.C.G.A. §§38- 3-1 through 38-3-64; and

WHEREAS, in the judgment of the Mayor, with advice from other subject matter experts, there exist emergency conditions as a result of the recent resurgence of cases of COVID-19, particularly the highly contagious omicron variant, within the geographical

Mayor's Executive Order 22-01

boundaries of the Consolidated Government requiring extraordinary and immediate corrective actions for the protection of the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Columbus, Georgia, and the surrounding communities as permitted by Section 1-102 of the Charter; and

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that a local state of public health emergency is hereby reinstated in Columbus, Georgia.

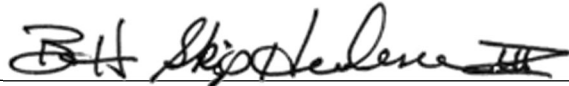
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that during this local public health emergency, this Council and all Boards and Commissions of the Columbus Consolidated Government are hereby authorized to meet by video or teleconference during the period of emergency as long as the requirements of O.C.G.A. 50-14-1(g) pertaining to public access are met.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all other emergency measures adopted in Resolution No. 301-21 shall remain in full force and effect.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that such Local Emergency shall expire on February 28, 2022, at 11:59 pm unless extended by me or the Columbus Council.

SO ORDERED,

This 10th day of January 2022.



B.H. "Skip" Henderson III
Mayor of Columbus, Georgia