

252149



City of Phoenix

**DECLARATION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
PHOENIX REGARDING REOPENING CERTAIN FACILITIES
AND CLOSURE AND RESTRICTIONS AT CITY OF PHOENIX
PARKS**

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the Governor of the State of Arizona, Douglas A. Ducey, determined that the COVID-19 outbreak presents conditions in Arizona that justified his declaration of a State of Emergency; and

WHEREAS, on the March 19, 2020, the Governor issued an Executive Order implementing emergency measures across the state to address the emergency; and

WHEREAS, on March 20, 2020, the City Council declared a local emergency; and

WHEREAS, on the March 23, 2020, the Governor issued Executive Order 2020-12 declaring parks and outdoor recreational facilities to be essential government functions that could remain open and were not subject to the stay at home orders; and

WHEREAS, on March 30, 2020, the Governor issued Executive Order 2020-18 which allowed local jurisdictions to place restrictions and temporary closures on essential functions including outdoor recreational facilities to protect from the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on April 2, 2020, the Phoenix City Council enacted a Declaration Regarding Partial Closure and Restrictions of City of Phoenix Parks to provide measures of protection for public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, at the time of that Declaration, the number of COVID-19 cases was increasing in the City of Phoenix; and

WHEREAS, on September 2, 2020, the City Council declared that outdoor athletic fields would be opened for programming, together with the

restroom facilities associated with those fields, because the number of COVID-19 cases had decreased; and

WHEREAS, on October 8, 2020, the City Council rescinded its April closure of ramadas and picnic tables, playgrounds, fitness equipment, basketball and volleyball courts, and sports complexes, at which time all restrooms were also opened; and

WHEREAS, on December 2, 2020, the City Council canceled all field allocations and reservations and closed all ramadas and picnic tables, fitness equipment, basketball and volleyball courts, and sports complexes because, as of November 19, 2020, the Arizona Department of Health Services COVID-19 benchmark rates in the City of Phoenix were in the Substantial Risk category; and

WHEREAS, there is now a downward trend in the COVID-19 benchmarks; and

WHEREAS, thousands of visitors historically gather at City parks on Easter weekend and closing the parking at City parks on Easter weekend in 2020 discouraged gatherings of large groups;

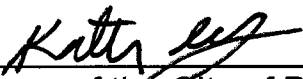
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT DECLARED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHOENIX as follows:

SECTION 1. That the following are reopened immediately: sports complexes; ramadas and picnic tables; basketball and volleyball courts; and outdoor fitness equipment. Reservations for athletic fields are reopened immediately for practices, games and local tournaments scheduled to be held beginning March 22, 2021. Twelve seasonal pools and all splash pads will reopen May 29, 2021.

SECTION 2. That the City Manager and Parks Director shall have the authority to continue to apply restrictions to access to parks, golf courses and recreation areas as needed to clean and sanitize, or to limit access in order to maintain appropriate social-distancing space of at least six feet between occupants, and other restrictions to the extent required by the local emergency.


SECTION 3. That the Parks and Recreation Department shall implement a plan that allows all parks to remain open but the parking lots, except spaces designated for accessible parking, will be closed on Easter weekend, 2021.

PASSED by the Council of the City of Phoenix this 16th day of March 2021.




Mayor of the City of Phoenix

ATTEST:



City Clerk


APPROVED AS TO FORM:



City Attorney



REVIEWED BY:



City Manager

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