

**MAYORAL DECLARATION OF A LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY RELATED TO
RISING COVID-19 HOSPITALIZATIONS**

WHEREAS the United States of America has experienced an event of critical significance as a result of the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19);

WHEREAS on March 13, 2020, President Donald Trump declared a national emergency for the United States of America in response to COVID-19;

WHEREAS on March 14, 2020, Governor Brian Kemp declared a public health emergency due to COVID-19, most recently extended an additional thirty (30) days from July 30, 2021, at 11:59 p.m.;

WHEREAS Hamilton Medical Center (HMC) located in the City of Dalton, Georgia has experienced a significant increase of hospitalizations due to COVID-19, causing staffing shortages and difficulty delivering essential medical care to patients during the public health emergency; and

WHEREAS HMC's immediate staffing need, in light of COVID-19, is an emergency situation requiring the activation of the local emergency operations plan so that the City of Dalton may provide immediate assistance to HMC;

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the Chapter 34, Article II of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Dalton, Georgia, and the authority vested in me therein as Mayor of the City of Dalton, **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AS FOLLOWS:**

Article 1: A state of emergency exists within the territorial limits of the City of Dalton, Georgia, and shall continue until the conditions requiring this declaration are abated.

Article 2: The present emergency requires the activation of the local emergency operations plan, insofar as it is needed to manage the present public health emergency.

Article 3: The following sections of the City of Dalton Code of Ordinances are now available:

- a. Sec. 34-29. Powers during an emergency or disaster.
- b. Sec. 34-30. Volunteers.
- c. Sec. 34-31. Violations.
- d. Sec. 34-32. Penalties.

Article 4: If one or more of the provisions contained in this Declaration shall be held to be invalid, in violation of the United States Constitution, Georgia Constitution, federal or

Georgia law, or unenforceable in any respect, such invalidity, violation, or unenforceability shall not affect any other provisions of this Declaration, but, in such case, this Declaration shall be construed as if such provision had never been contained within the Declaration.

Article 5: All provisions of this Declaration shall become effective upon signature.

SO ORDERED AND ORDAINED this _____ day of August, 2021.

THE CITY OF DALTON, GEORGIA

Hon. David Pennington, Mayor