

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

#### LOCAL GOVERNMENT COVID-19 RESPONSE

(March 24, 2020). On March 13, 2020, United States President Donald J. Trump declared a National Emergency Concerning the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Outbreak. The following day, March 14, 2020 Georgia Governor Brian Kemp Declared a Public Health State of Emergency based on the President's Executive Order.

Since the issuance of these Declarations, our local citizens and businesses have responded magnificently in the face of this challenge. They have largely followed Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidance concerning sanitation and social distancing. They have sought ways to modify their businesses to meet the needs of our community and continue employing citizens while also meeting healthcare concerns. They have volunteered their funds, efforts, and time to make sure the needs of others for food and medicine were uninterrupted. The citizens of Toombs County have responded as we knew they would to meet the needs and protect the safety of their neighbors.

On March 23, 2020 Governor Kemp issued a new Executive Order that, among other things, ordered that "no business, establishment, corporation, non-profit corporation, or organization shall allow more than ten (10) persons to be gathered at a single location if such gathering requires persons to stand or to be seated within six (6) feet of any other person." The Executive Order expires at 12:00 PM on Monday, April 6, 2020. These decisions by our Governor are directed to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus and our resources will be directed toward doing the same.

We encourage our neighbors continue to follow CDC and Georgia Public Health Department guidance to protect themselves, their families and our community. Much of this guidance is simple- wash your hands, especially after touching any frequently used item or surface; avoid touching your face; sneeze or cough into a tissue or the inside of your elbow; practice social distancing.

During this time, essential functions and many local government services will not cease. For additional information on local government services, including hours, during this State of Emergency please see [www.lyonsga.org](http://www.lyonsga.org), [www.vidaliaga.gov](http://www.vidaliaga.gov) and [www.toombscountyga.gov](http://www.toombscountyga.gov).

For information on business continuation, federal assistance and employee services, please see [www.toombsmontgomerychamber.com](http://www.toombsmontgomerychamber.com).

We will continue to monitor this situation and remain in daily contact with the appropriate government agencies to insure the health and safety of our citizens.

Mayor Willis NeSmith, Jr.  
Lyons, Georgia

Mayor Ronnie Dixon  
Vidalia, Georgia

Chairman David Sikes  
Toombs County

\*\*\*\*\*