



RESILIENT LOUISIANA COMMISSION

CO-CHAIR DON PIERSON

CO-CHAIR TERRIE STERLING

Resolution of the Resilient Louisiana Commission

Whereas since March of 2020, the state of Louisiana, her people and businesses have worked together to fight the spread of COVID-19; and

Whereas, the coordinated efforts led by Governor John Bel Edwards, to encourage and promote social distancing, hand washing, mask-wearing and other enhanced mitigation efforts, have been undertaken to help flatten the curve and limit the spread; and

Whereas, those efforts were successful in reducing the spread of COVID-19 and preventing our healthcare system from being overwhelmed; and

Whereas, the state of Louisiana was eventually able to enter Phase 1 of re-opening our economy and subsequently Phase 2 under the guidelines and gating requirements laid out by the White House and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and

Whereas, there has been a recent and sudden increase in cases across the United States which has caused other states to regress in phases of re-opening and forced the closure of categories of businesses that had re-opened; and

Whereas, on June 26, 2020, Governor John Bel Edwards extended the Phase 2 re-opening plan for an additional 28 days to ensure that our successful efforts were not in vain; and

Whereas, the State Fire Marshal in coordination with state leadership has announced that his office will conduct random courtesy visits to businesses and other entities in an effort to help owners better comply with COVID-19 spread mitigation restrictions and encourage compliance; and

Whereas, the intention of these courtesy visits is to assist those businesses in complying with the regulations and correct any misunderstandings or mistakes, to avoid the need to place further restrictions on businesses that fail to comply; and

Whereas, most businesses and other entities have followed the current guidance, regulations and restrictions in place, and are working to ensure a safe environment for employees and their customers; and

Whereas, limiting the spread of COVID-19 is good for public health and also good for business; and

Whereas, the people of the State of Louisiana have worked too hard and sacrificed too much to allow the gains previously achieved to be eroded; and

Whereas, any businesses and entities acting out of compliance endanger both the public health and the ability of businesses and entities acting in compliance to remain open; and

Whereas, the enforcement of compliance with the regulations and restrictions currently in place will be good for public health, for business, and for the economy as a whole; and

Whereas, Louisiana's statewide 211 network is now answering calls about COVID-19; this network is best designed and staffed to handle the large volume of calls from Louisiana residents who are concerned and who have questions about the rapidly-spreading virus; and

Whereas, Dr. Alex Billioux, Louisiana's assistant secretary in the Department of Health, stated on Friday, July 17, 2020, that Louisiana's current picture is of "a statewide epidemic;" and

Whereas, Dr. Billioux indicated the Centers for Disease Control guidance holds that if everyone in the United States wore a mask for a month, the COVID-19 pandemic would be conquered;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Resilient Louisiana Commission, composed of leaders representing Louisiana businesses and other sectors across geography, demography, and party, hereby requests that Governor John Bel Edwards, the State Fire Marshal, any local and state bodies capable of enforcement, and the public at large do everything in their power, to enforce compliance with the regulations and restrictions currently in place, including but not limited to, setting up an official hotline for reporting non-compliant businesses, placing further restrictions on

businesses that fail to comply with current guidance, regulations and restrictions, and/or instituting temporary closures of businesses found to repeatedly in violation of restrictions and regulations put in place to promote the health and safety of the people of the state of Louisiana.

Be it further resolved that the commission encourages any Louisianans looking for information about the COVID-19 outbreak to dial 211 or text the keyword LACOVID to 898-211 for the most current information about the outbreak as it becomes available.

Be it further resolved that the commission urges all Louisianans to wear masks, according to mandatory guidelines, in all public places of contact; to limit public gatherings; and to augment hand washing, good hygiene practices and social distancing with mask wearing at all times when in contact with other people, indoors or outdoors. The commission reminds the people of Louisiana that masks are a vital weapon in our fight to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and to ensure good health outcomes and economic prosperity for our state.