PROCLAMATION BY MAYOR REGULATING OUTDOOR DINING DURING THE CITY OF SOUTHPORT STATE OF EMERGENCY

THAT WHEREAS, due to the COVID-19 Virus and in order to maintain and protect the public health of the citizens and residents of the City of Southport, the City of Southport has declared a State of Emergency pursuant to Article 1A of Chapter 166A of the North Carolina General Statutes and Chapter 6 of the Southport Code of Ordinances; and

WHEREAS, said Proclamation, as amended and supplemented, is still in effect within the City in order to protect the public health and safety of the citizens and residents; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of North Carolina has also declared a State of Emergency within the State of North Carolina, which, as amended and supplemented, is still in effect and which declarations greatly limit the ability of restaurants to provide dining for customers and which declarations substantially affect the local economy; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined by health officials that outdoor dining is much safer and less likely to facilitate the spread of the Covid-19 Virus than indoor dining; and

WHEREAS, the City of Southport would like to encourage and facilitate more outdoor dining instead of indoor dining in order to better protect the health of its citizens and residents and limit the spread of the Covid-19 Virus; and

WHEREAS, due to the limited availability of outdoor dining venues, the City of Southport hereby determines that it is in the public interest to encourage and assist restaurants and eating establishments in providing more outdoor dining for their customers by temporarily suspending the prohibition of using public right of ways for outdoor dining under the conditions and requirements hereinafter set out;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Joseph P. Hatem, Mayor of the City of Southport, pursuant to the authority cited above, do hereby declare and proclaim that, during the Covid-19 State of Emergency, or until otherwise amended or terminated, the City of Southport Temporary Outdoor Dining Guidelines as attached hereto are now adopted and are in effect within the City of Southport.

This the 13 day of January, 2021.

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