WHEREAS, one of the greatest responsibilities of any elected official is the protection of the electorate served and the protection of the greater public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 poses a serious and potentially deadly threat to the public and the public health as the Federal Center for Disease Control (“CDC”) has noted that serious illness occurs in 16% of cases with older people and people of all ages with severe chronic medical conditions, such as heart disease, lung disease and diabetes or those who are immunocompromised, seeming to be at a higher risk of developing serious COVID-19 illness and noting that the World Health Organization has determined COVID-19 to be a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, across the globe, the disease has been dramatically spread through contact by those with no known correlation to any affected areas or without contact with those known to be infected, called “community spread” and the Iowa Department of Public Health (“IDPH”) has now identified community spread in multiple area in the State of Iowa and has issued new recommendations for individuals with underlying medical conditions, and all Iowans should be prepared for cancellations and disruptions in routine activities; and

WHEREAS, a high rate of infection has been shown to overwhelm medical systems throughout the world and numerous governmental entities and epidemiologists have stated that community spread in the United States poses the same risk of overwhelming American medical systems; and

WHEREAS, the Governor has issued numerous State of Public Health Disaster Emergency orders; and

WHEREAS, in order to flatten the curve of COVID-19 in the City of Dubuque it is necessary to maintain and extend several mitigation measures; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of Iowa recommended schools in the state of Iowa remain closed until April 30, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Iowa Code Section 372.14(2) and the City of Dubuque Code of Ordinances 7-3-1 grant the Mayor powers in circumstances when public danger or emergency exists to take extraordinary steps to protect the public health and safety.
NOW, THEREFORE, IN CONSIDERATION OF THE FOREGOING AND OTHER VALID EMERGENT CONCERNS, I, ROY D. BUOL, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF DUBUQUE, PROCLAIM THE FOLLOWING:

I hereby determine that a state of emergency or public danger exists and direct that all gatherings of 10 people or more on public property or public right-of-way are hereby prohibited and any permits or permissions previously granted are hereby rescinded and any amounts paid for such permits shall be refunded upon request.

I further determine and direct the Police Chief to enforce such direction to avoid any such gatherings on public property and public right-of-way, whether formally or informally organized.

I further strongly suggest all citizens comply with the mandated closures issued by Governor Kim Reynolds.

I further strongly suggest, consistent with the recommendations of the IDPH, that private gatherings of 10 or more people on private property should be avoided and appropriate adjustments for smaller gatherings with high risk groups should be made.

For the protection of the residents, program participants, their families, city staff and the contractors teaching or performing the programs through the City of Dubuque Leisure Services Department I hereby cancel all City of Dubuque Leisure Services spring recreational programs and Multicultural Family Center programs.

I hereby close the Multicultural Family Center for public use beginning Tuesday, March 17, 2020 and the Multicultural Family Center will remain closed through at least May 4, 2020.

I hereby cancel meetings and other gatherings of the public scheduled for the Comiskey Park building and the Allison Henderson building through at least May 4, 2020. During the shutdown city staff will be sanitizing all areas of each of these facilities.

I hereby authorize City Boards and Commissions to make accommodations allowing for remote attendance and participation at regularly scheduled meetings by board and commission members and the public.

I hereby suspend any requirements within the City of Dubuque Code of Ordinances which mandate the requirement for physical meeting locations and physical notifications or mailings and authorize electronic and virtual meetings and electronic notifications; this includes but is not limited to notices required by Title 16 of the city code.

I hereby issue a moratorium on the issuance of special event permits and solicitor’s licenses through at least May 4, 2020.

I hereby extend the closure of the following City buildings to public access through at least May 4, 2020:
- City Hall
- City Hall Annex
- Leisure Services Department Office at Bunker Hill
• Housing & Community Development Department at the Historic Federal Building
• The Municipal Services Center on Kerper Court
• Multicultural Family Center

City staff in these buildings shall work to provide services to the public electronically, by phone, by mail, and when possible, by appointment as well as access to information and the ability to participate in meetings by alternative means.

I hereby determine and direct the City Manager to evaluate the ongoing operations of the city organization and adjust operations, accordingly, including the authority to further restrict access to facilities.

Per City of Dubuque Code of Ordinances section 7-3-1, the public is advised that the violation of a mayoral proclamation of emergency or of any subsidiary proclamation thereto evidencing the exercise of emergency powers or of any rule or order issued pursuant thereto by the mayor or city manager of any order issued pursuant thereto by any peace officer or of any directive issued by designated emergency management or emergency services personnel pursuant thereto shall constitute a violation of that section and shall be punishable as a misdemeanor as provided by Title 1, Chapter 4 of the city code.

This Proclamation of emergency and public danger is part of an ongoing response of the City of Dubuque to an ever-changing situation to protect public health and safety. This proclamation may be modified or superseded with more restrictive proclamations at any time as circumstances warrant. Please be aware these decisions have been made based upon the information available today. You can find the most recent information about the City’s response to COVID-19 at www.cityofdubuque.org.

PROCLAIMED THIS 6th DAY OF APRIL 2020 BY THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME BY THE CODE OF IOWA AND THE CITY OF DUBUQUE CODE OF ORDINANCES.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the City of Dubuque to be affixed this 6th day of April 2020.

Roy D. Buol, Mayor

Attest:

Kevin S. Firnstahl, CMC, City Clerk