

**CITY OF MONROE  
RESOLUTION NO. 007/2021**

EXPRESSING THE CITY'S POSITION REGARDING THE  
RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY  
AND SUPPORTING PERSONAL HEALTHCARE CHOICES

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WHEREAS, on February 29, 2020, the State of Washington declared a state of Emergency in all Washington counties due to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 2, 2020, Mayor Thomas issued a Proclamation of Emergency to ensure the community was prepared, had quicker access to necessary resources, and to reduce potential exposure, and the City Council confirmed the Proclamation on March 10, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on March 27, 2020, Mayor Thomas issued Emergency Executive Order 2020-003, Suspending Delinquent Account Penalties, to ensure continued access to vital utilities for residents experiencing financial hardship because of the COVID-19 public health emergency; and

WHEREAS, on April 14, 2020, Mayor Thomas issued Emergency Executive Order 2020-004, enacting limits on City expenditures, including capital expenditures in excess of \$5,000, without the advance written approval of the City Administrator; and

WHEREAS, on April 24, 2020, Mayor Thomas joined sixteen Snohomish County mayors in writing to Governor Inslee to offer assistance and ask for detailed plans of conditions when residents could begin to gather again; and

WHEREAS, on May 2, 2020, Governor Inslee announced the Safe Start Washington phased reopening plan, which was the foundation on how to reopen the state; and

WHEREAS, on May 6, 2020, Mayor Thomas joined nine Snohomish County mayors in writing to Governor Inslee regarding the Safe Start Washington plan, to express concerns on behalf of the local businesses and requesting that the Governor move our community sooner into phase 2 to benefit the local business community, including presenting concerns about the extension of the Safe Start Washington plan and presenting alternatives to accomplish reopening safely and quickly; and

WHEREAS, on November 18, 2020, Mayor Thomas issued Emergency Executive Order 2020-010, establishing a recovery plan for restaurant and retail businesses, and authorizing such businesses to establish temporary outdoor retail areas in the public right-of-way; and

WHEREAS, the City Council confirmed the above described Emergency Executive Orders on April 28, 2020 and December 8, 2020; and

WHEREAS, throughout 2020, the City enacted contracts with the Washington State Department of Commerce and Snohomish County for the City to receive a combined \$978,946 in Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funds; and

WHEREAS, in support of all residents of Monroe, the City distributed CARES Act funds to support agencies and individuals experiencing financial hardship, including \$246,696 to businesses, \$236,600 to service providers, and \$152,651 to residents; and

WHEREAS, CARES Act distributions assisted recipients with rent and mortgage payments, payroll and business expense obligations, and past-due utility bills; and

WHEREAS, in December 2020, the first vaccinations were administered and since then, there has been a significant reduction in the case counts, hospitalizations, and deaths due to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on January 5, 2021, Governor Inslee announced the new Healthy Washington phased approach; and

WHEREAS, on April 9, 2021, Governor Inslee updated the Healthy Washington phasing to keep counties from continuing to shift down phases, and added more guidance on events allowed in counties in phase 2; and

WHEREAS, in April 2021, Mayor Thomas engaged in conversations with community stakeholders, boards and commissions, councilmembers, and city staff to develop strategies toward recovery, reconnecting, and building resiliency as our community is moving out of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on April 27, 2021, the City of Monroe and the Monroe Chamber of Commerce released a joint letter to Governor Inslee asking for some limitations to be removed or reconsidered with a large number of residents and employers being vaccinated, and offering a potential alternative phasing plan; and

WHEREAS, on May 10, 2021, Governor Inslee announced a pause on movement of counties between Healthy Washington phases; and

WHEREAS, as of June 15, 2021, case counts are lower than they have been since March of 2020 and the number of fully vaccinated people is now 47% of the State population and 51% of the Snohomish County population, and the number of people being vaccinated seems to be declining as people are choosing not to be vaccinated; and

WHEREAS, the current state of the science, as we understand it, is that masks should be worn to protect unvaccinated people, many of whom have chosen not to be vaccinated, from becoming infected with COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, a person's decision to not be vaccinated has a higher potential impact on that person than to the general community and, therefore, the decision to not be vaccinated is an intentional decision that balances the person's perceived benefits, detriments, and other considerations from being vaccinated; and

WHEREAS, the City of Monroe has continued to be proactive in pursuing alternative reopening plans and ways to mitigate risk, while quickly and safely reopening; and

WHEREAS, the City of Monroe recognizes the effect COVID-19 has had on our residents and has continually strived to support our community through the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on May 13, 2021, Governor Inslee announced a statewide reopening date of June 30, 2021.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY OF MONROE DOES HEREBY FIND AS FOLLOWS:

1. The City of Monroe and State of Washington are a community of people that treat people with kindness, compassion, and understanding; and
2. The City of Monroe has actively and assertively advocated for our shared residents and employers throughout the COVID-19 public health emergency; and
3. The City of Monroe has supported and continues to support efforts that are necessary and reasonable to slow the spread of COVID-19 and re-open safely while supporting each resident's own health care choices, including whether or not to be vaccinated and whether or not to wear a mask; and
4. The City of Monroe opposes State mandates on residents who have chosen not to be vaccinated, but is constrained by law like other employers; and
5. The City of Monroe supports re-opening all communities across the State of Washington not later than June 30, 2021.

NOW THEREFORE, THE CITY OF MONROE DOES HEREBY RESPECTFULLY INSIST THAT Governor Inslee immediately rescind all State mandates that relate to the wearing of masks and that compel unvaccinated people to wear masks, socially distance, and be treated in any manner different than any person who is vaccinated.

ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Monroe, at its regular meeting thereof, and APPROVED by the Mayor this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of June, 2021.

Approved: June 22, 2021  
Effective: June 22, 2021

CITY OF MONROE, WASHINGTON



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Geoffrey Thomas, Mayor

ATTEST:



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Rebecca R. Hasart, Interim City Clerk

*Did not sign*



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Heather Rousey, Mayor Pro Tem

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Patsy Cudaback, Councilmember



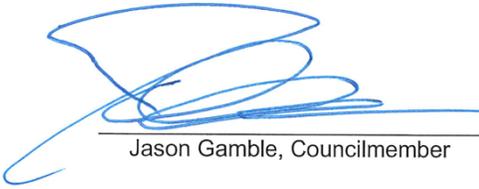
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Kevin Hanford, Councilmember



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Ed Davis, Councilmember



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Jason Gamble, Councilmember



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Jeff Rasmussen, Councilmember

*Not Present, Excused*

Kirk Scarboro, Councilmember