RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION TO AMEND LITTLE ROCK, ARK., RESOLUTION NO. 15,445 (APRIL 20, 2021), TO EXTEND THE STATE OF DECLARATION OF A LOCAL DISASTER EMERGENCY FOR 120 DAYS TO, AND INCLUDING, APRIL 26, 2022; TO SPECIFICALLY ENDORSE THE CONTINUATION OF DECLARATION OF LOCAL DISASTER EMERGENCY 2021-02 AS TO THE WEARING OF MASKS WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, in 2021, the vaccinations for COVID-19 were available to persons over the age of five (5) years, but now booster shots are being recommended as the Delta variant of the virus continues to attack individuals, and the Omicron variant of the virus – while not yet found to be in Arkansas – is created great concern throughout the Country, and has new issues for hospitals, health care workers, and the general public; and,

WHEREAS, the most recent data from the Centers for Disease Control ("CDC") website show that while there has been progress, over 46% of the population of Pulaski County, Arkansas, has yet to receive even one (1)-dose of a vaccination which alerts Health Officials to a particular concern regarding the Omicron variant since it has been shown to be more easily transmittable; and,

WHEREAS, Declaration of Local Disaster Emergency No. 2101-02, issued on August 5, 2021 ("DLDE 2021-02") established a requirement to wear masks on City property, and issued a strong encouragement that others impose such requirements for private property, and after monthly reviews it has been determined that DLDE 2021-02 should be extended for another 120 days until April 26, 2022, with review of the necessity of its maintenance to occur approximately every thirty (30) days during a Regular or Agenda Meeting of the Little Rock Board of Directors.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CITY OF LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS:

Section 1.

(a) Pursuant to the authority granted in Ark. Code Ann. § 12-75-108 (a) (3), the Board of Directors continues and renews the declaration of a local disaster emergency for a period of 120 days, to and including December 29, 2021, as permitted in Little Rock, Ark., Resolution No. 15,445 (April 20, 2021);

(b) Little Rock, Ark., Resolution No. 15,445, § 1 particularly, is hereby amended pursuant to the effective term of the declaration of a local disaster emergency set forth within this resolution.

Section 2. The provisions Declaration of Local Disaster Emergency 2021-01 and Declaration of Disaster Emergency 2021-02, shall remain in effect, or to the extent that these declarations are amended to reflect the extension of time within this resolution, as amended.

Section 3. ***Periodic Review of this Resolution.***

(a) The provisions of this resolution shall be reviewed approximately every thirty (30) days during a meeting of the Board of Directors; as this point, these dates are:

(i) Tuesday, January 25, 2022;

(ii) Tuesday, February 22, 2022;

(iii) Tuesday, March 29, 2022; and,

(iv) Tuesday, April 26, 2022.

(b) Whether the review meeting is a regular meeting of the Board of Directors, or an Agenda Meeting of the Board of Directors, the public will be permitted to comment on the action the City should take in terms of this continued declaration.

(c) Notice is hereby given that for the dates of the meetings tentatively set forth in Subjection (a), the discussion of this item shall be considered a Special Meeting of the Board of Directors for purposes of the approval of a resolution to repeal this resolution, provided, that such special meeting shall be for no other reason unless separate and appropriate notice is provided pursuant to Arkansas State Law.

(d) The dates set forth above may be changed as needed, provided the rest of the provisions set forth in this Section 3 on periodic review of this resolution are otherwise followed.

Section 4. ***Severability.*** In the event any section, paragraph, item, sentence, clause, phrase or word of this resolution is declared or adjudged to be invalid or unconstitutional, such declaration or adjudication shall not affect the remaining portions of the resolution which shall remain in full force and effect as if the portion so declared or adjudged invalid or unconstitutional were not originally part of this resolution.

Section 5. ***Repealer.*** All laws, ordinances, resolutions, or parts of the same that are inconsistent with the provisions of this resolution are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

ADOPTED: December 21, 2021

ATTEST: **APPROVED:**

_____ _____

Susan Langley, City Clerk **Frank Scott, Jr., Mayor**

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM:

_____

Thomas M. Carpenter, City Attorney

//