DECLARATION OF LOCAL DISASTER FOR
PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, beginning in December 2019, a Novel Coronavirus, now designated COVID-19, was detected in Wuhan, City, Hubei Provence, China, and has since spread throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, coughing, and shortness of breath, outcomes have ranged from mild to severe illness and in some cases the virus has caused death; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Texas Disaster Act of 1975, the Mayor is designated as the Emergency Management Director of the City of Brownsville, and may exercise the powers granted to the Governor on an appropriate local scale; and

WHEREAS, Section §418.108(a) of the Texas Government Code provides that the presiding officer of the governing body of a political subdivision may declare a state of local disaster; and

WHEREAS, a declaration of local disaster and public health emergency includes the ability to reduce the possibility of exposure to disease, control the risk, promote health, compel persons to undergo additional health measures that prevent or control the spread of disease, including the provision of temporary housing or emergency shelters for persons misplaced or evacuated, and request assistance from the governor of state resources; and

WHEREAS, by this Declaration of Disaster and Public Health Emergency, I declare all rules and regulations that may inhibit or prevent prompt response to this threat suspended for the duration of the incident; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the authority granted to the Mayor under the Texas Disaster Act of 1975, I authorize the use of all available resources of state government and political subdivisions to assist in the City's response to this situation; and

WHEREAS, I, Juan "Trey" Mendez III, the Mayor of the City of Brownsville have determined that extraordinary and immediate measures must be taken to respond quickly, prevent and alleviate the suffering of people exposed to and those infected with the virus, as well as those that could potentially be impacted by COVID-19;
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE CITY OF BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS CITY COMMISSION:

1. That a Local State of Disaster for Public Health Emergency is hereby declared for the City of Brownsville, Texas pursuant to the Texas Disaster Act of 1975 and Section §418.108(A) of the Texas Government Code.

2. Pursuant to Section §418.108(b) of the Government Code, the state of disaster and Public Health Emergency shall continue for a period of not more than seven (7) days from the date of this declaration unless continued or renewed by the City Commission of the City of Brownsville, Texas.

3. Pursuant to Section §418.108(c) of the Government Code, this declaration of a Local State of Emergency and Public Health Emergency shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the City Secretary’s Office.

4. Pursuant to Section §418.108(d) of the Government Code, this declaration activates the City of Brownsville Emergency Management Plan.

5. Pursuant to Section §418.020(c) of the Government Code, this declaration authorizes the City to commandeer or use any private property, temporarily acquire, by lease or other means, sites required for temporary housing units or emergency shelters for evacuees, subject to compensation requirements.

6. Pursuant to Section §122.006, of the Health and Safety Code, this declaration authorizes the City to take any actions necessary to promote health and suppress disease, including quarantine, and regulating hospitals, regulating ingress and egress from the City, and fining those who do not comply with the City’s rules.

7. This Declaration of Local Disaster for Public Health Emergency shall take effect immediately from and after its issuance.

Ordered this 17th day of March 2020.

Juan “Trey” Mendez III
Mayor of the City of Brownsville

Attest:

Griselda Rosas
Interim City Secretary
City of Brownsville