

**RESOLUTION NO. 20-628**

**CITY OF GENTRY, ARKANSAS**

**A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY OF GENTRY, ARKANSAS  
REGARDING THE USE OF FACE COVERINGS IN  
RELATION TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.**

WHEREAS, an outbreak of Covid-19 has resulted in an ongoing global pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on June 18, 2020, Governor Asa Hutchinson, pursuant to Executive Order 20-37, declared a continued public-health and disaster emergency, and designated the State of Arkansas as a disaster area due to the state-wide impact of Covid-19, effective for sixty (60) days unless renewed; and

WHEREAS, on June 19, 2020, the Arkansas Department of Health released guidance regarding the use of face masks/coverings by the general public, citing ample evidence from the World Health Organization and other sources that wearing face coverings is highly effective in reducing the transmission of Covid-19; and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned guidance from the Department of Health on face coverings recommends that the general public should wear face coverings in ALL indoor environments where they are exposed to non-household members and distancing of 6 feet or more cannot be assured. This includes, but is not limited to, workplaces, retail stores, businesses, places of worship, courtrooms, jails/prisons, schools, healthcare facilities, and other people's homes; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Health guidance recommends that the general public should also wear face coverings in outdoor settings where there is exposure to non-household members, unless there exists ample space of 6 feet or more to practice physical distancing; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention also encourages the use of cloth face coverings to curb the spread of COVID-19.

WHEREAS, individuals infected with Covid-19 are often asymptomatic and may transmit the virus unawares; and

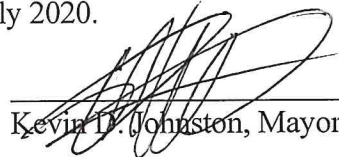
WHEREAS, the health of employees and patrons of reopened businesses is directly threatened by such individuals who enter said establishments without wearing a face covering.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GENTRY, ARKANSAS:

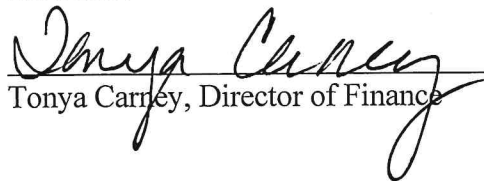
1. To protect the most vulnerable members of our community, as well as to ensure that the hard-won progress made by the citizens of Arkansas in reopening our shared economy is preserved, while the Covid-19 pandemic is ongoing, in accordance with guidance from state, national, and international health authorities, the City **strongly encourages** all residents and visitors to wear face coverings in businesses, workplaces, retail stores, places of worship, schools, healthcare facilities, other people's homes, and any other indoor or outdoor environment where they are exposed to non-household members and a physical distance of six feet or more between persons cannot be assured.

2. If any local businesses chose to require the use of face coverings upon their premises, local law enforcement, acting in a support capacity, shall educate and encourage members of the public who decline to wear face coverings regarding the Department of Health guidance on the efficacy of wearing face coverings. Law enforcement may additionally support local businesses by advising individuals who continue to decline to comply with the face-covering requirement of any local business that the individual must abide by that requirement or leave the premises.

PASSED and APPROVED this 6th day of July 2020.

  
Kevin D. Johnston, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Tonya Carney, Director of Finance

