

**PROCLAMATION RESCINDING TOWN OF APEX FACE COVERING
REQUIREMENTS WITHIN TOWN OF APEX FACILITIES**

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Health and Human Services Secretary declared a public health emergency in the United States for COVID-19 under Section 319 of the Public Health Service Act; and

WHEREAS, on March 5, 2020, Wake County activated the Wake County Emergency Operations Center in response to Covid-19;

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, the Governor of the State of North Carolina declared a State of Emergency as defined by N.C. Gen. Stat. 166A-19.3(6) and 166A-19.3(19) for the State of North Carolina based on the public health emergency posed by COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak as a pandemic of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant an emergency declaration for all states, tribes, territories and the District of Columbia pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Stafford Act); and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the County of Wake, with consent of incorporation by the City of Raleigh and the Towns of Apex, Cary, Fuquay-Varina, Garner, Holly Springs, Knightdale, Morrisville, Rolesville, Wake Forest, Wendell and Zebulon, declared a State of Emergency ("**March 13, 2020 Proclamation of State of Emergency**") ; and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, the Town of Apex declared a State of Emergency ("March 16th, 2020 Proclamation Declaring a State of Emergency in the Town of Apex, North Carolina) which also requested application of the Wake County March 13, 2020 Proclamation of State of Emergency to the Town of Apex; and

WHEREAS, on March 22, 2020, the County of Wake with consent of incorporation by the City of Raleigh and the Towns of Apex, Cary, Fuquay-Varina, Garner, Holly Springs, Knightdale, Morrisville, Rolesville, Wake Forest, Wendell and Zebulon and portions of the Towns of Angier, Clayton and Durham incorporated in the borders of Wake County, enacted a limited Proclamation of Emergency Restrictions that placed restrictions on nursing homes and long term care facilities, the operation of certain businesses (i.e. fitness clubs and salons), prohibited mass gatherings greater than 50 and restricted the use of playgrounds ("**March 22, 2020 Proclamation of Emergency Restrictions**") ; and

WHEREAS, on March 25, 2020, the President of the United States, pursuant to the Stafford Act, approved a Major Disaster Declaration, FEMA-4487-DR, for the State of North Carolina, and

WHEREAS, on March 26, 2020, the County of Wake with consent of incorporation by the City of Raleigh and the Towns of Apex, Cary, Fuquay-Varina, Garner, Holly

Springs, Knightdale, Morrisville, Rolesville, Wake Forest, Wendell and Zebulon and portions of the Towns of Angier, Clayton and Durham incorporated in the borders of Wake County, superseded the March 22, 2020 order by enacting additional restrictions under a Proclamation of Emergency Restrictions which further restricted the movement and travel of all persons in public places, business activity, prohibited gatherings of persons outside the same household and implemented mandatory social distancing practices (**“March 26, 2020 Proclamation of Emergency Restrictions”**); and

WHEREAS, on March 27, 2020, the Governor of North Carolina issued Executive Order No. 121, implementing a statewide stay at home order (“State Stay at Home Order”) which placed similar restrictions on the business activity and gatherings to mitigate the spread of Covid-19, while preserving the authority for local governments to impose more restrictive emergency measures; and

WHEREAS, on April 9, 2020, the Governor of North Carolina issued Executive Order No. 131 which enacted specific social distancing regulations and mandatory sanitation practices for retail establishments (e.g. maximum occupancy requirements) that preempted local government restrictions, to the extent there was a conflict; and

WHEREAS, on April 10, 2020, the Town of Apex issued a Declaration and Consent Requesting Wake County Restrictions and Prohibitions apply within the Jurisdictional Limits of the Town of Apex, North Carolina, which amended the Wake County Chairman’s Proclamation dated March 26, 2020 as it related to Section 10 of the Proclamation but otherwise declared that all other prohibitions and restrictions imposed in the March 26, 2020 wake County Chairman’s Proclamation remain in effect until the Proclamation, its amendments and supplements, expires or is rescinded and that ordinances, restrictions and prohibitions set forth in Proclamation apply within the Town of Apex; and

WHEREAS, on April 15, 2020, the County of Wake with consent of incorporation by the City of Raleigh and the Towns of Apex, Cary, Fuquay-Varina, Garner, Holly Springs, Knightdale, Morrisville, Rolesville, Wake Forest, Wendell and Zebulon and portions of the Towns of Angier, Clayton and Durham incorporated in the borders of Wake County, enacted a First Amendment to Proclamation of Emergency Restrictions which clarified and modified retail restrictions, drive-in services for faith organizations and funeral services (**“April 15, 2020 First Amendment to Proclamation of Emergency Restrictions”**); and

WHEREAS, on April 18, 2020, the County of Wake with consent of incorporation by the City of Raleigh and the Towns of Apex, Cary, Fuquay-Varina, Garner, Holly Springs, Knightdale, Morrisville, Rolesville, Wake Forest, Wendell and Zebulon and portions of the Towns of Angier, Clayton and Durham incorporated in the borders of Wake County, enacted a Second Amendment to Proclamation of Emergency Restrictions for the purpose of modifying mandatory health screen requirements for businesses (**“April 18, 2020 Second Amendment to Proclamation of Emergency Restrictions ”**); and

WHEREAS, on April 23, 2020, the Governor of North Carolina issued Executive Order 135 extending and modifying various restrictions and exemptions issued in Executive Orders 117-134 and extending the State Stay at Home Order through May 8, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on April 29, 2020, the Mayor of the Town of Apex proclaimed a continuing state of emergency within the Town of Apex and adopted and incorporated all restrictions and prohibitions contained in the Governor’s Executive Orders; and

WHEREAS, on June 29, 2020, the Mayor of the Town of Apex issued a Proclamation requiring the wearing of Face Coverings in all Town of Apex facilities within the Town of Apex; and

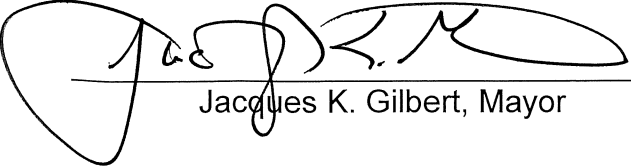
WHEREAS, on May 14, 2021 the Governor issued Executive Order No. 215 rescinding and modifying requirements for the wearing of Face Coverings in certain settings, unless an exception applies; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that the restrictions enacted in the Governor’s Order adequately protect the health and safety of the Town of Apex residents and uniformity of restrictions within all Town of Apex facilities shall improve public understanding and adherence to restrictions.

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority contained in Article 1A of N.C. Gen. Stat. Chapter 166A, and Chapter 7 of the Town of Apex Code of Ordinances, I, Jacques K. Gilbert, Mayor of the Town of Apex, do hereby proclaim that for the safety and welfare of residents:

1. For the purpose of aligning with the Governor’s Executive Orders related to COVID-19 and establishing uniformity and consistency with the State guidelines, I hereby rescind the Order issued on June 29, 2020.
2. I hereby order this Proclamation: (a) to be distributed to the news media and other organizations calculated to bring its contents to the attention of the general public; (b) to be filed with Clerk to the Apex Town Council and (c) to be distributed to others as necessary to ensure proper implementation of this Proclamation.
3. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Proclamation is for any reason held to be invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of the Proclamation.

PROCLAIMED this the 14 day of February 2022, at 12:00 a.m./p.m.



Jacques K. Gilbert, Mayor