

MAYOR MICHAEL R. BROWN
GRAND FORKS, NORTH DAKOTA

EMERGENCY ORDER 2020-5

Pursuant to the Declaration of Public Health Emergency dated March 16, 2020 and the authority set forth in Grand Forks City Code Section 2-0301, I, Michael R. Brown, Mayor of the City of Grand Forks, North Dakota, hereby order as follows:

Factual Findings/Background.

The existence of COVID-19 poses an imminent threat to the public health warranting response by the City of Grand Forks. Proactive measures for containment and mitigation are necessary to slow the transmission and reduce the impact of the virus. Such measures include social distancing, self-quarantine, quarantine, and isolation, where appropriate.

A need exists in the City of Grand Forks for temporary housing to quarantine or isolate individuals whose current housing situation does not allow them to do so safely or is not feasible.

Currently the City of Grand Forks has no available housing options under its control for necessary and appropriate quarantine or isolation. The ability to use hotel/motel rooms for quarantine and isolation is needed to provide decent, safe and sanitary facilities and for the protection of public health, safety and welfare of the residents of Grand Forks. The ability to utilize hotel/motel rooms for quarantine and isolation is also necessary for the preservation of medical resources available within the community.

Because of the threat to public health, the existence of a public health emergency, the imminent need, and the lack of currently available resources or options, the City's traditional or typical procurement methods to obtain such services or resources are not feasible, timely or practical.

Now, based upon the findings above, I have determined that there is a real and imminent threat to the public health and safety of the City of Grand Forks with respect to the need for continuation of social distancing and the need for facilities for safe quarantine and/or isolation of individuals whose current housing situation does not allow for safe or feasible quarantine or isolation. Therefore, under the authority granted to me by Grand Forks City Code Section 2-0301, I am ordering the following:

1. The Director of the Grand Forks Public Health Department shall prepare a Request for Hotel/Motel Proposals or Quotes to be distributed to hotels/motels within the City of Grand Forks for completion and return to the City no later than 1:00 p.m. on Friday, March 27, 2020.

2. Distribution of the Request for Proposals or Quotes to the hotels/motels shall be made by email to known hotels and motels located within the City limits and upon request.
3. The Request for Proposals or Quotes shall be published on the Grand Forks web page.
4. Any and all requirements for publication in the City's official newspaper that may apply to a request for proposals or quotes is hereby waived.
5. Responses to the Requests for Proposals or Quotes shall be received by email only by the Grand Forks Public Health Department.
6. The Director of the Grand Forks Public Health Department is hereby authorized to prepare an appropriate Request for Proposals or Request for Hotel/Motel Room Price Quotes and a responsive form to be completed by interested hotel/motel operators.
7. The Director of the Grand Forks Public Health Department is further authorized to receive and evaluate responses to the Requests for Proposals or Quotes and to accept such proposals or quotes as the Director determines to be in the best interests of the public health and safety of the City of Grand Forks, subject to any further order by the City's Public Health Officer.
8. The Director of the Grand Forks Public Health Department, in consultation with the City's Public Health Officer, is hereby authorized to waive any provision of Grand Forks City Code Chapter XXI, Article 11 relating to the regulation and licensing of hotels/motels as may be reasonably necessary or convenient for the protection of public health.

If any provision of this Order or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held to be invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of the Order, including the application of such part or provision to other persons or circumstances should not be affected and shall continue in full force and effect. To this end, the provisions of this Order are severable.

This Order shall be effective upon its issuance and shall terminated sixty (60) days from the date of issuance.

Date: 3/24/2020


MICHAEL R. BROWN, Mayor