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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Council Clarifies Columbia Stay-At-Home Ordinance Not Adopted in Forest Acres Limits

Forest Acres, SC – The issue of a stay-at-home ordinance has been widely discussed over the past several weeks. The City Council wants to be clear that the ordinance adopted by the City of Columbia does not apply within Forest Acres municipal boundaries. Forest Acres City Council is researching similar ordinances and will continue to monitor the ongoing efforts to diminish the spread of COVID-19. The City of Forest Acres is cooperating and working with the State of South Carolina, Richland County and our municipal neighbors during this public health emergency. We will continue to utilize the best management practices as they become available.

At this time, we are taking the step to adopt an emergency meeting ordinance that will allow for City Council meetings to be held while also practicing social distancing. A special called City Council meeting will be held on Monday, March 30 at 9:00 am for the express purpose of such ordinance.

Councilman Thomas Andrews stated, "It is our desire to make these meetings as open to the public as possible and as such we are investigating the use of technology to achieve transparent and open meetings. Meanwhile, rest assured the City has taken steps to prepare City staff and resources for this emergency and City Council has instructed the Forest Acres Police Department to fully cooperate in complying with Governor McMaster's Executive Order No. 2020-13. We would further encourage and implore all residents to remain at home as much as possible during this time."

Councilman John Barnes stated, "The City of Forest Acres is adhering to the Governor's directives. The citizens of Forest Acres are doing an incredible job staying home and implementing social distancing. I feel this policy would be redundant at our level. Government's job is to lead, which is to create clarity and avoid confusion."

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