



**PROCLAMATION
BY THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF BESSEMER, ALABAMA
STATE OF EMERGENCY DUE TO CIVIL UNREST
JUNE 1, 2020**

WHEREAS, on May 25, 2020, the tragic death of George Floyd in Minneapolis, MN, caused by a heinous act of a Minneapolis police officer, shocked the nation; and,

WHEREAS, the senseless death of yet another African-American in the course of an encounter with the police has enraged thousands and resulted in violence and destruction in many cities across the country; and,

WHEREAS, I, Kenneth E. Gulley, the Council of the City of Bessemer, the Bessemer Police Department, and the City share in the grief and outrage at the death of Mr. Floyd and call for the investigation and prosecution of those responsible; and,

WHEREAS, we also call for our nation to come together to bring peace and safety to all citizens, regardless of race, creed, national origin and all factors of our diverse citizenry; and,

WHEREAS, Bessemer, has a history of non-violent protest, following the leadership of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; and,

WHEREAS, on May 31, 2020, following peaceful events in downtown Birmingham, protesting the murder of Mr. Floyd, a gathering in Linn Park turned into an attack on the City's business district, resulting in damage to and destruction of businesses, large and small; and,

WHEREAS, as a result of activity occurring on the night of May 31st, the Birmingham Police Department has responded to reports of burglaries and arson, including more than 13 businesses reporting damage and 14 businesses burglaries; the Birmingham Fire and Rescue Service responded to 22 fires, including 5 commercial businesses, residences, dumpsters, and vehicles; 24 people have been arrested; and,

WHEREAS, this morning there have been calls for violence in Bessemer, Alabama tonight, June 1, 2020, on social media; and

WHEREAS, there is continuing uncertainty about the length of time in which this civil unrest will continue, based on public displays of disorder that are ongoing around the nation; and,

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic remains a threat in the City; and,

WHEREAS, the City stands in full support of citizens who exercise their First Amendment rights to peaceful demonstrations and protests but must protect its citizens, both individuals and businesses, from senseless destruction by criminal mob actions; and,

WHEREAS, authority is granted under Section 34-3 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Bessemer to proclaim the existence of a state of emergency during any time of great public crisis caused by disaster, rioting, civil disorder, catastrophe or similar public emergency and to order restrictions to more effectively protect the lives and property of people within the City.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, KENNETH E. GULLEY, AS MAYOR OF THE CITY OF BESSEMER, HEREBY PROCLAIM AND ORDER AS FOLLOWS:

A state of emergency exists in the City of Bessemer due to the civil unrest and destruction occurring on the night of May 31, 2020, in Birmingham, Alabama, and a call for violence in the

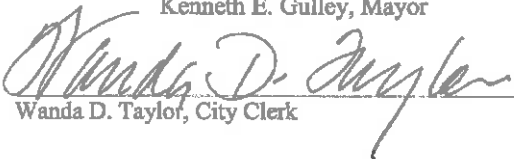
City of Bessemer issued on social media this morning June 1, 2020, and the continuing threat of further rioting that has taken over peaceful protests of the death of George Floyd in many other major cities across the United States over the past week. Such civil unrest threatens the lives, safety, health and welfare and the property of the people of the City.

1. Pursuant to the authority granted to the Mayor of the City of Bessemer by Sec. 34-5(9) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Bessemer, beginning at 7:00 p.m. on June 1, 2020, no person shall between the hours of 7:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. each day while this order is in effect:
 - a. Hold or participate in any demonstration, parade, march, or vigil, on any of the public ways or upon any public property; and
 - b. Travel upon any public street, alley, or roadway or upon any other public property, except those in search of medical assistance, food, or other commodity or service necessary to sustain the well-being of themselves or their families or some member thereof; those traveling through the City from one location outside of the City to another location outside the City; those returning to one's place of residence or place of employment; or as necessary to comply with legally mandated government purposes, or an order of law enforcement or a court.
2. These restrictions shall apply within the corporate limits of the City of Bessemer.
3. These restrictions shall not apply to such other classes of persons as may be essential to the preservation of public order and immediately necessary to serve the safety, health, and welfare needs of the citizens, including City law enforcement officers, firefighters and other public employees; doctors, nurses, employees of hospitals and other medical facilities; on-duty military personnel whether state or federal; on-duty employees of public utilities, public transportation companies, and newspaper, magazine, radio broadcasting, and television broadcasting corporations.
4. Pursuant to Sec. 34-4 of the Code of Ordinance of the City of Bessemer, this proclamation shall be effective for a period of five (5) days unless extended by the City Council of the City of Bessemer.
5. It shall be unlawful for any person to violate any provisions of any restriction imposed by this proclamation.

6/1/2020
Date


Kenneth E. Gulley, Mayor

ATTEST:


Wanda D. Taylor, City Clerk