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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Mayor issues Declaration of Disaster in preparation for solar eclipse

Kerrville, Texas (April 4, 2024) – Acting on the recommendations of Kerrville Fire Chief Eric Maloney and Kerrville Police Chief Chris McCall, and to support emergency management and Kerr County initiatives, Kerrville Mayor Judy Eychner issued a Declaration of Disaster (see attached) on Thursday, April 4, 2024, in preparation for the upcoming April 8 total solar eclipse. Issuance of a Declaration of Disaster is a precautionary measure that will make it easier for the city to apply for federal relief funds in the event of an emergency.



The Declaration of Disaster will be in effect for seven days from issuance unless it is renewed by the Kerrville city council.



City of Kerrville, Texas
DECLARATION OF DISASTER

WHEREAS, on April 8th, 2024, Kerrville, Texas is located within a direct line of a total solar eclipse that will cross North America (the “Eclipse”); and

WHEREAS, this event is expected to see the population of Kerrville, Texas, which is approximately 23,000, significantly increase with area visitors throughout the days leading up to and including the day of the Eclipse; and

WHEREAS, such influx of visitors will most likely result in significant traffic congestion; enormous strains on first responders, hospitals, and health care providers; possible shortages of food, groceries, and fuel; and an overwhelming of the City’s and other utility providers’ services and infrastructure; all of which will threaten the safety of citizens and visitors; and

WHEREAS, based upon guidance from other cities and communities who have experienced a total eclipse, as well as input from City staff and local emergency managers, the Mayor has determined that extraordinary measures must be taken and may need to be increased to protect the health, safety, and welfare of Kerrville citizens and visitors that may be impacted as a result of the Eclipse; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor, in consultation with the City’s Fire and Police Chiefs, has determined that the potential exists for roads and highways to be stressed to and above capacity during certain times of the event, thereby increasing the need for increased law enforcement, emergency responders, and traffic control; and

WHEREAS, the potential stress and over-capacity of City, county, state, and federal streets, roads, and highways may create a public safety event whereby law enforcement and fire and rescue personnel will be slowed and/or impeded from responding to calls for service; and

WHEREAS, the City, in planning for and analyzing the impact of the Eclipse, has planned several events and designated public gathering places, to include transportation from the sites, in an effort to better manage and lessen the impact of crowds and traffic; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor urges City residents to be mindful of the conditions leading up to and immediately after the Eclipse, and in part ensure that their vehicles are filled with fuel the week leading up to this event; purchase sufficient groceries, supplies, and medicine well in advance; and to take any and all other cautionary measures to ensure the safety of persons and animals in their care;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE MAYOR OF KERRVILLE:

SECTION ONE. That a local state of disaster is hereby declared for the City of Kerrville pursuant to Section 418.108(a), Texas Government Code, due to the Eclipse.

SECTION TWO. Pursuant to Section 418.108(b), Texas Government Code, the state of disaster shall continue for a period of not more than seven days from the date of this declaration unless continued or renewed by the City Council of Kerrville.

SECTION THREE. Pursuant to Section 418.108(c), Texas Government Code, this declaration of a local state of disaster shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the City Secretary.

SECTION FOUR. Pursuant to Section 418.108(d), Texas Government Code, this declaration of a local state of disaster activates the City's Emergency Management Plan and authorizes the furnishing of aid and assistance under this declaration.

SECTION FIVE. That this proclamation shall take effect immediately from and after its issuance.

ORDERED this on the 4th day of April, 2024.


Judy Eychner, Mayor