

TOWN OF BURRILLVILLE

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TOWN BUILDING
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Resolution Burrillville Town Council Declaration of State of Emergency

WHEREAS, on January 30, 2020 the World Health Organization designated the novel coronavirus, COVID-19, outbreak as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern;

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020 the Rhode Island Department of Health established an Incident Command System response to COVID-19;

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020 the United States Health and Human Services Secretary Alex M. Azar III declared a public health emergency for the entire United States to aid the nation's healthcare community in responding to COVID-19;

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2020 the State of Rhode Island Governor Gina M. Raimondo issued Executive Order 20-02 declaring a state of emergency due to the outbreak of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020 the World Health Organization declared the outbreak of COVID-19 to be a Pandemic;

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020 the President of the United States addressed the nation about the threat posed by the outbreak of COVID-19 and announced a restriction on international air travel from 26 European nations for a period of thirty days starting on March 12, 2020;

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020 the United States State Department issued an extraordinary global health advisory;

WHEREAS, on March 15, 2020 the outbreak of COVID-19 has spread to every continent except Antarctica and infected more than 152,000 people, causing approximately 5,700 deaths;

WHEREAS, the number of countries that are experiencing community transmission of COVID-19 continues to grow;

WHEREAS, community transmission in the United States has occurred in over two dozen states and is an immediate public health threat to the elderly and those with underlying health conditions;

WHEREAS, cases of COVID-19 have been documented in the State of Rhode Island;

WHEREAS, the State of Rhode Island and various public health officials have reached out to the Town of Burrillville to take steps to contain the spread of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, the Town Burrillville needs to take additional measure to limit the spread of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, Rhode Island General Laws §§ 30-15-12 and 30-15-13, as well as the Town of Burrillville Charter § 3.09, permit the President of the Town Council the power and authority to declare a state of emergency in the event of a disaster, catastrophe, or other similar event, or in the imminent danger thereof which endangers the public peace, health, safety, welfare and the protection of property of the inhabitants of the Town, and to take such lawful action as he/she deems necessary.

WHEREAS, Rhode Island General Laws §§ 30-15-9(e)(4) and 30-15-12(b), permit the Town Manager to suspend the provisions of any statute, regulation, or requirement prescribing the procedures for the conduct of town business, or the orders, rules, regulations of any town department, board, or agency, if strict compliance with the provisions of any statute, order, rule or regulation would in any way prevent, hinder or delay necessary action in coping with this emergency; and

WHEREAS, Rhode Island General Laws §§ 30-15-9(e)(3) and (7), and 30-15-12(b), permit the Town Manager to transfer the direction, personnel, or functions of town departments and agencies or units thereof for the purpose of performing or facilitating emergency services; to control ingress and egress to and from high risk areas, the movement of persons within the area, and the occupancy of premises therein; and to take appropriate measures for the protection of health, safety, and welfare of the people of the town and to prevent or minimize the loss of life.

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020 the Honorable Town Council of the Town of Burrillville passed a resolution declaring a state of emergency and since that time, a number of Executive Orders were issued by the Town Manager and/or the President of the Town Council, John Pacheco;

WHEREAS, on December 9, 2020 a newly sworn in Town Council for the Town of Burrillville will be sworn in and given their oath of office;

WHEREAS, it is the intention to ratify and affirm the Resolution of the Town Council passed on March 16, 2020 and to ratify and affirm all prior Executive Orders issued by the Town Council President or the Town Manager since the passage of the Resolution dated March 16, 2020; and

WHEREAS, with the consent of the Town Council, and by virtue of the authority vested in me as Town Council President for the Town of Burrillville, I hereby extend the Declaration of Emergency and adopt and continue the following mandates contained herein and those contained in the Town Council Resolution dated March 16, 2020;

NOW, THEREFORE, I Donald A. Fox, by virtue of the authority vested in me as the Town Council President of the Town of Burrillville, pursuant to the Rhode Island General Laws and the Town of Burrillville Charter, including but not limited to Title 30, Chapter 15 of the General Laws and Section 3.09 of the Town of Burrillville Charter, do hereby order and direct the following:


1. A state of emergency is hereby declared for the Town of Burrillville due to the dangers to health and life posed by COVID-19, and the Town's disaster emergency plan is hereby activated.
2. The Town Manager is directed to activate the town's emergency operations center and all necessary town emergency response plans, policies, compacts, and agreements, to create and establish mobile support units, and to activate and deploy disaster response teams and disaster response workers to perform disaster response services.

3. All town departments, agencies, or quasi-municipal agencies and boards and commissions performing executive functions shall cooperate fully with the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency (RIEMA) and the Town Manager in all matters concerning this Order. Efforts to provide emergency disaster relief to the Town of Burrillville should be coordinated by and through the Town Manager.
4. Pursuant to the emergency powers granted by the Rhode Island General Laws, and any other applicable provisions of state or local law, I shall from time to time issue additional directives, orders, and recommendations as circumstances require, either written or verbal.
5. Nothing in this Resolution shall constrain duties and powers of the Town, Town Council President or the Town Manager authorized by Title 30, Chapter 15 of the General Laws.
6. Authorize the Town Manager, or designee to:
 - a. To suspend all procurement process and procedures needed and to acquire as needed materials, supplies, equipment and services to address the COVID-19 emergency.
 - b. To extend the scope of and procure services as needed with the Town's existing providers already under contract with the Town.
 - c. To suspend personnel policy, rules and regulations, including but not limited to, application of benefits and hiring related to the COVID-19 emergency.
 - d. To set the level of municipal services, including days and hours of operation of town buildings and services.
 - e. To enter into contracts, partnerships or other with the private sector, non-profit groups, individuals and Federal, State and municipal entities to address any aspect of the COVID-19 emergency.
7. Public meetings:
 - a. To cancel, effective immediately, all non-essential board and committee meetings.
 - b. To hold, but only if necessary, at the call of the Planning and Zoning Board chairpersons, meetings of those boards.
 - c. To cancel as deemed necessary meetings of the Town Council and to limit the agenda items for any Town Council meeting to be held during the emergency period to essential business only.
 - d. To cancel as deemed necessary meetings of the Burrillville School Committee, at the discretion of the School Committee chairperson, and to limit the agenda items for any School Committee meeting to be held during the emergency period to essential business only.

Effective as of the date of passage, to run concurrently with the State emergency declaration.

PASSED AS A RESOLUTION of the Burrillville Town Council this 9th day of December, 2020.

ATTEST:


Vicki Martin, Town Clerk


President, Burrillville Town Council

