



DECLARATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH COVID-19 DISASTER EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, on the 13th day of March, 2020, the President of the United States issued a determination “that the ongoing Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic is of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant an emergency determination under section 501 (b) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. 5121-5207 (the "Stafford Act")”; and

WHEREAS, on the 6th day of March, 2020, The Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania issued a Proclamation of Disaster Emergency, proclaiming the existence of a disaster emergency throughout the Commonwealth in accordance with the provisions of Subsection 7301(c) of the Emergency Management Services Code, 35 Pa.C.S. § 7101, et seq.; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the findings and directives of the higher offices of our federal and State governments, all must recognize and acknowledge the virulent dangers of COVID-19 for its real potential to cause injury, damage, and suffering to the persons of the City of Harrisburg; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 has the potential to endanger the health, safety and welfare of a substantial number of persons residing in the City of Harrisburg and, thereby, presents an immediate risk of wide-ranging problems greater in scope than Harrisburg may be able to resolve through traditional measures; and

WHEREAS, emergency management measures are required to reduce the severity of this disaster and to protect the health, safety and welfare of affected residents and the community at large in the City of Harrisburg.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Eric Papenfuse, the undersigned Mayor of the City of Harrisburg, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania, pursuant to the provisions of Section 7501 of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Services Code, 35 Pa.C.S. § 7501, as amended, do hereby proclaim the existence of a public health disaster emergency in the City of Harrisburg.

FURTHER, I direct that the Director of Public Safety and Business Administrator, along with the members of the Harrisburg emergency management response team I now or shall hereafter appoint, undertake the coordination of the necessary activities for an emergency response, taking all appropriate actions needed to alleviate the effects of this public health disaster, to maintain essential public services, and to take any other emergency response action deemed necessary to respond to this emergency.

FURTHER, I authorize Departmental and Bureau Directors of the City, in coordination with the City Administrative Staff, and working under the Mayor's or designee's direction, to act to alleviate this crisis and maintain essential services, including the making of emergency assignments without regard to procedures required by other laws, except mandatory constitutional requirements, as such actions pertain to the performance of public work, entering into of contracts, incurrence of obligations, employment of temporary workers, rental of equipment, purchase of supplies and materials, and expenditures of public funds.

FURTHER, in accordance with the authority vested in local government under Subsection 7501(d) of the Emergency Management Services Code, 35 Pa.C.S. § 7101, et seq., I hereby suspend the provisions of any regulatory ordinance prescribing procedures for the conduct of City business, or the orders, rules and regulations of any City department, if strict compliance with the provisions of any ordinance, statute, order, rule or regulation would in any way prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in coping with this emergency.

FURTHER, I hereby authorize the Business Administrator and Director of Facilities Management to implement and modify such standards and protections to protect health and safety of City Staff and the general public, including the adoption and modification of policies and procedures to counter the threat of exposure and spread to COVID-19 in the City of Harrisburg facilities, including the restriction or denial of access to public buildings or parts thereof.

FURTHER, I hereby authorize the Business Administrator, Director of the Bureau of Information Technology and Director of Communications to take such action as required and prudent to allow for necessary public meetings with the opportunity for accessibility limited to digital participation by residents and taxpayers of the City of Harrisburg.

FURTHER, I hereby authorize and direct the City Health Officer to assist in the preparation of public health advisories, recommendations and protocols that are recommended and modified by the responsible Offices of the federal and State government to combat COVID 19 and to coordinate with local health institutions, facilities and officials to better combat and respond to this public health emergency.

This Proclamation shall take effect immediately.

Given under my Hand and Seal this

**Sixteenth Day of March,
Two Thousand Twenty, in and for
The City of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.**



Mayor Eric Papenfuse

3/16/20