



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 16, 2020

****PRESS RELEASE****

“TOWN OF COVENTRY EMERGENCY DECLARATION”



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WHEREAS, on January 30, 2020 the World Health Organization (“WHO”) 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 (“ICS”) 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 WHO 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 (30) 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 Coventry to take steps to contain the spread of COVID-19;

WHEREAS the Town of Coventry must take additional measure to limit the spread of COVID-19; WHEREAS, R.I. Gen. Laws §§ 30-15-12 and 30-15-13, as well as the Town of Coventry Charter (“Charter”) Article III, Section 3.09, provides that the president of the Town Council (“Council”) has the power and authority (1) to declare a state of emergency in the event of a disaster, catastrophe, other similar event, or imminent danger thereof which endangers the public peace, health, safety, welfare, and the protection of property of the inhabitants of the town and (2) to take such lawful action as the president deems necessary.

WHEREAS, R.I. Gen. Laws §§ 30-15-9 (c) and (e)(4) and 30-15-12(b), as well as the Coventry Charter Article III, Section 3.09, permits the Council president 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

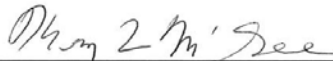
WHEREAS, R.I. Gen. Laws §§ 30-15-9(e)(3) and (7), and 30-15-12(b), as well as the Coventry Charter Article III, Section 3.09, permits the Council president to transfer the direction, personnel, or functions of town departments and agencies or units thereof for the purpose of performing or facilitating 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 such other 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.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, **KERRY McGEE**, by virtue of the authority vested in me as the Town Council President of the Town of Coventry, pursuant to the aforementioned R.I. Gen. Laws and the Coventry Charter Article III, Section 3.09, do hereby order and direct the following:

1. A state of emergency is hereby declared for the Town of Coventry 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’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, as necessary to address the COVID-19 pandemic are hereby authorized.
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”) in all matters concerns this Order. Efforts to provide emergency disaster relief to the Town of Coventry should be coordinated by and through the Town Manager’s Office.

4. All entertainment licenses and special event permits, whether for night clubs, concerts, live music, or other events, are hereby revoked during the period of this state of emergency. The Town will not be issuing any entertainment licenses or special event permits during the period of this state of emergency.
5. Consistent with the Governor's Order on March 16, 2020, all bars and restaurants within the borders of the Town shall remain closed from March 17, 2020 until March 30, 2020. Drive-through and delivery/take-out may continue, unless further restricted by the State of Rhode Island.
6. Town officials are directed to cancel all non-essential official town meetings, limit the travel of town employees, and postpone all public events during the period of this state emergency.
7. All Town offices and operations shall otherwise remain open until further notice and shall continue to otherwise operate in their ordinary course of business.
8. 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.
9. Nothing in this Emergency Declaration shall constrain the duties and powers of the Council president or the Office of the Town Manager, as authorized by Title 30, Chapter 15 of the General Laws and the Coventry Charter Article III, Section 3.09.
10. This Emergency Declaration shall take effect immediately and remain in full force and effect through March 23, 2020, pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 30-15-13 (a), and shall be renewed subject to the consent of the Town Council and if so renewed, it shall continue in effect and automatically renew for a period as determined by said Council.

So Ordered:




Kerry McGee, President
Coventry Town Council

16 MARCH 2020

Date

Attest:



Joanne Amitrano, Town Clerk
Town of Coventry

For the latest update go to:

<https://coventryri.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/coventryRhodelsland/>

<https://www.facebook.com/CoventryEmergencyManagementAgency/>