



Town of Easton

14 S. HARRISON STREET, EASTON, MARYLAND 21601

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ROBERT C. WILLEY
MAYOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER 2020-01 STATE OF EMERGENCY DECLARATION FOR THE TOWN OF EASTON FOR COVID-19

WHEREAS, the disease known as COVID-19 is a severe respiratory disease, that spreads easily from person to person and may result in serious illness or death;

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization has declared the COVID-19 outbreak a global pandemic;

WHEREAS, a Declaration of State of Emergency and Existence of a Catastrophic Health Emergency was declared by Governor Hogan of the State of Maryland on March 5, 2020;

WHEREAS, a Proclamation on Declaring a National Emergency Concerning the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Outbreak was issued by the President of the United States on March 13, 2020;

WHEREAS, the first confirmed case of COVID-19 in Talbot County was reported on March 15, 2020;

WHEREAS, the Talbot County Council issued an Emergency Declaration COVID-19 on March 16, 2020;

WHEREAS, as the COVID-19 outbreak and public safety emergency continues, it threatens the lives, health and property in the Town of Easton;

WHEREAS, Section 14-111 of the Public Safety Article of the Maryland Annotated Code authorizes the chief executive officer of a political subdivision to declare a local state of emergency to activate the response and recovery aspects of any applicable local state of emergency plan and authorize the provision of aid and assistance under such plans;

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WHEREAS, the Mayor of the Town of Easton wishes to declare a State of Emergency for the Town of Easton for COVID-19;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROBERT C. WILLEY, Mayor of the Town of Easton, pursuant to my authority under the Charter of the Town of Easton, Maryland and Section 14-111 of the Public Safety Article of the Maryland Annotated Code do hereby issue this State of Emergency Declaration for the Town of Easton for COVID-19 (“Emergency Declaration”) and order the following:

- (1) **Federal and State Aid:** The Town hereby requests and authorizes the receipt of all available Federal and State aid, resources, and assistance to protect the public health safety and welfare of the citizens of the Town of Easton.
- (2) **Procurement:** The Town’s procurement policy shall be suspended under the emergency provisions therein for the purchase of goods or services as deemed immediately necessary to protect public health, safety, and welfare.
- (3) **Closure of Public Buildings:** All Town buildings shall be closed to the public with the exception of the lobby area in the Town office building and the Easton Police Department building. The Town will continue to be open and operate to assist the public, but some services, such as inspections, may be limited or reduced.
- (4) **Public Assembly Permits:** All previously issued public assembly permits for events intended to occur during the time that this Emergency Declaration remains in effect are rescinded.
- (5) **Extension of Licenses and Permits:** All licenses or permits issued by the Town that will expire during the term this Emergency Declaration is in effect shall be extended until May 31, 2020.
- (6) **Suspension of Motor Vehicle Administration (“MVA”) Flagging for Unpaid Tickets:** The Town shall suspend all MVA flagging as a result of unpaid parking tickets or speed camera tickets.
- (7) **Sidewalk Café Permits:** All sidewalk café permits previously issued are hereby revoked during the term of this Emergency Declaration.
- (8) **Boards and Commission Meetings:** All Town of Easton board and commission meetings are hereby suspended except to deal with items

deemed critical. The determination of whether an item is critical shall be made by the chair of the board or commission and the Town Manager and provided the meeting can be held virtually via teleconference or live streaming or other available technology and provided such meeting complies with the State's Open Meetings Act requirements in the determination of the Town Attorney.

- (9) **Zoning for Temporary Medical Uses:** Any use associated with the temporary provision of hospital services or diagnostic or testing facilities associated with the COVID-19 outbreak, shall be permitted as a Temporary Use in any Zoning District in Easton and shall not require any zoning approvals to open or operate. The use may require building permit or health department approvals as applicable.

- (10) **Publication: This Emergency Declaration shall be promptly publicized.**

- (11) **Effective Date:** This Emergency Declaration shall be effective for a period of thirty (30) days unless extended by legislative action of the Easton Town Council.

- (12) **Supersedes Inconsistent Local Law:** This Emergency Declaration and the orders herein shall supersede any inconsistent or conflicting local law, rule, or regulation.

- (13) **Further Amendments:** This Emergency Declaration may be revised or amended from time to time as needed in the discretion of the Mayor.

This order is issued on this nineteenth day of March, 2020, and I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the Town of Easton, Maryland to be affixed.

ATTEST:


Kathy M. Ruf, Town Clerk


Robert C. Willey, Mayor