# EXECUTIVE ORDER

## 2020-01

## March 16, 2020

## Declaration of State of Municipal Emergency

**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 Honorable Gina M. Raimondo, Governor of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, 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**, community transmission in the United States has occurred in many 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 Tiverton to take steps to contain the spread of COVID-19;

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Tiverton needs to take additional measures to limit the spread of COVID-19;

**WHEREAS**, Rhode Island General Laws §§ 30-15-12 and 30-15-13, as well as the Home Rule Charter of the Town of Tiverton Article IV, Section 405 authorizes the President of the Town Council "to declare a state of emergency which shall be ratified by the Council as soon as circumstances permit" to protect the public health, safety, and/or general welfare of the Town;

**WHEREAS**, Rhode Island General Laws §§30-15-12(b) and 30-15-9(e)(1) permit the chief executive officer 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, 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 chief executive officer 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 city/town and to prevent or minimize the loss of life.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Patricia Hilton, by virtue of the authority vested in me as the President of the Tiverton Town Council, pursuant to the Rhode Island General Laws and the Home Rule Charter of the Town of Tiverton do hereby order and direct the following:

1. A state of municipal emergency is hereby declared for the Town of Tiverton due to the dangers to health and life posed by COVID-19.

2. All town departments, agencies, or quasi-municipal agencies and boards and commissions preforming executive functions shall cooperate fully with the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency (RIEMA) and Tiverton EMA in all matters concerning this Order. Efforts to provide emergency disaster relief to the Town of Tiverton should be coordinated by and through the Tiverton EMA.

3. All sessions of the Tiverton Municipal and Probate Courts are suspended until further notice.

4. The Tiverton Senior Center and Library shall be closed to the general public until further notice.

5. All entertainment licenses and special event permits, whether for bars, restaurants, social clubs, places of religious worship, or other events, are hereby suspended during the period of this state of emergency. The Town of Tiverton will not be issuing any entertainment licenses or special event permits during the period of this state of emergency.

6. All places of public gatherings, including but not limited to, bars, restaurants, places of worship and social clubs within the borders of the Town of Tiverton may continue to remain open; however, they are limited in occupancy to one hundred (100) persons regardless of the establishment's size or configuration.

7. 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.

8. Town offices and departments may operate on a modified schedule and will restrict in-person business activities. Town offices will remain open by appointment only.

9. Town residents are strongly encouraged to curtail visiting town hall or other municipal offices to conduct non-essential business and to utilize the town's website to conduct normal business.

10. 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 consistent with Article IV, section 405 of the Home Rule Charter.

11. This Order shall take effect immediately and remain in full force and effect through March 22, 2020, and with the consent of the Town Council, it shall continue in effect and automatically renew for a period as authorized by that body.

So Ordered:

Patricia M. Hilton

Patricia Hilton

Title: President, Town of Tiverton

Date:

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