

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
WOONSOCKET, RHODE ISLAND

EXECUTIVE ORDER

2020-1

March 16, 2020

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 6,000 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 City of Woonsocket to take steps to contain the spread of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, the City of Woonsocket is required to enforce the Governor's Executive Orders to limit the spread of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, as instructed from the Governor's Executive Orders pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws § 23-8-18, Rhode Island General Laws §§ 30-15-12 and 30-15-13, as well as the City of Woonsocket Home Rule Charter, Chapter IV, Sections 2 and 12, permits the Mayor to declare a state of emergency for the purpose of, among other things: providing for the cooperation in epidemic prevention, preparedness, response and recover; preparing for emergency health threats that require the exercise of extraordinary governmental functions; providing the city/town with the ability to respond rapidly and effectively to potential or actual public health emergencies; and reducing loss of life; and


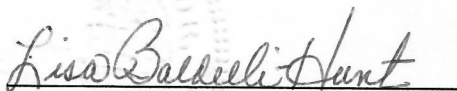
WHEREAS, as instructed from the Governor's Executive Orders pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws § 23-8-18, Rhode Island General Laws §§ 30-15-9(e)(3) and (7), and 30-15-12(b), as well as the City of Woonsocket Home Rule Charter Chapter IV, Sections 2 and 12, permits the Mayor to transfer the direction, personnel, or functions of town/city 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 of Woonsocket and to prevent or minimize the loss of life.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Lisa Baldelli-Hunt by virtue of the authority vested in me as the Mayor of the City of Woonsocket, pursuant to the Governor's Executive Orders, Rhode Island General Laws and the City of Woonsocket Home Rule Charter, including but not limited to Title 30, Chapter 15 of the General Laws and Chapter IV, Sections 2 and 12 of the City of Woonsocket Home Rule Charter, do hereby order and direct the following:

1. A state of emergency is hereby declared for the City of Woonsocket due to the dangers to health and life posed by COVID-19.
2. All City 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 City of Woonsocket Public Safety Director in all matters concerns this Order. Efforts to provide emergency disaster relief to the City of Woonsocket should be coordinated by and through the Public Safety Director.
3. 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 City will not be issuing any entertainment licenses or special event permits during the period of this state of emergency.
4. All restaurants shall be closed to the public and only allowing take-out delivery or pick-up services, effective 12:01 a.m. March 17, 2020.
5. All bars, cafes, donut shops, and nightclubs shall be closed effective 12:01 a.m. March 17, 2020.

6. City officials are directed to cancel all non-essential official City meetings, limit the travel of City employees, and postpone all public events during the period of this state emergency.
7. All City buildings, including City Hall, shall be closed to the public effective 12:01 a.m. March 17, 2020, excepting Police and Fire Departments. Accordingly, as determined by their directors, all non-essential employees shall be put on paid administrative leave until further notice, subject to being called in by their directors, as needed.
8. We are restricting assemblies of no more than 25 people to occur within the borders of Woonsocket and I am directing the Woonsocket Police to enforce any and all directives within this order, effective immediately.
9. 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.
10. The herein Order shall be filed pursuant to Article IV, Section 20 of the Home Rule Charter, with the City Clerk and directed to the Woonsocket City Council forthwith.
11. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately and remain in full force and effect until further notice.

So Ordered:



Lisa Baldelli-Hunt

Title: Mayor