

**DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY
CITY OF OTTAWA, ILLINOIS**

WHEREAS, in late 2019, a new and significant outbreak of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) emerged in China; and,

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a novel severe acute respiratory illness that can spread among people through respiratory transmissions and present with symptoms similar to those of influenza; and,

WHEREAS, certain populations are at higher risk of experiencing more severe illness as a result of COVID-19, including older adults and people who have serious chronic medical conditions such as heart disease, diabetes, or lung disease; and,

WHEREAS, we are continuing our efforts to prepare for any eventuality given that this is a novel illness and given the known health risks it poses for the elderly and those with serious chronic medical conditions; and,

WHEREAS, the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services declared that COVID-19 presents a public health emergency on January 27, 2020, and the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a Public Health Emergency of International Concern on January 30, 2020 and declared a worldwide pandemic on March 11, 2020; and,

WHEREAS, State of Illinois Governor JP Pritzker issued a disaster proclamation on March 9, 2020, declaring all counties in the State of Illinois a disaster area under the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act, 20 ILCS 3305/7; and

WHEREAS, as of March 19, 2020, the World Health Organization has reported more than 200,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19 globally and over 10,000 deaths attributable to COVID-19; and,

WHEREAS, despite efforts to contain COVID-19, the World Health Organization and the CDC indicate that it is expected to spread; and,

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Illinois has issued a disaster proclamation on March 9, 2020 due to the impact of the COVID-19 virus and has activated the State of Emergency Operations Center; and

WHEREAS, as of March 19, 2020, there were 422 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in twenty-two (22) counties in Illinois, including one confirmed case of COVID-19 in LaSalle County; and,

WHEREAS, at least one of the confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Illinois has not been linked to any travel activity or to an already-confirmed COVID-19 case, which indicates community transmission in Illinois; and,

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the City of Ottawa to be prepared to address any disasters and therefore, it is necessary and appropriate to make additional resources within the City of

Ottawa available to ensure the effects of COVID-19 are mitigated and minimized and that residents and visitors in the City of Ottawa remain safe and secure; and

WHEREAS, Section 11-1-6 of the Illinois Municipal Code and Ordinance No. 13-2020 passed by the Council of the City of Ottawa on March 17, 2020, permits the Mayor during a state of emergency such powers of the corporate authorities as may be reasonably necessary to respond to the COVID-19 emergency; and

WHEREAS, 20 ILCS 3305/10(j) of the Emergency management Agency Act and 65 ILCS 5/8-10-5 of the Emergency Act provides political subdivision with certain emergency contractual authority; and

WHEREAS, due to the spread of COVID-19 immediate emergency action is necessary to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the general public and to ensure the effects of COVID-19 are mitigated and minimized.

NOW THEREFORE I, Daniel F. Aussem, Mayor of the City of Ottawa, pursuant to the power granted to me in the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act (20 ILCS 3305/11), 65 ILCS 5/11-1-6 and Ordinance No.13-2020 and other relevant provisions of the Illinois Compiled Statutes, do hereby declare the existence of a local emergency and a disaster in the City of Ottawa, Illinois.

- A. Description of Emergency.** The emergency is related to the COVID-19 virus which is causing and anticipated to cause widespread impacts on the health of members of the community. In this matter, I am relying upon each and every matter recited in the preamble hereto, which is incorporated by reference.
- B. Expiration.** Pursuant to 65 ILCS 5/11-1-6 and Ordinance No. 13-2020, the state of emergency and the Mayor's extraordinary power and authority is effective immediately and will expire not later than the first regular meeting of the corporate authorities after the state of emergency is declared unless extended by the Council of the City of Ottawa.
- C. City Council Meetings.** That any regular or special meetings of the City Council may be conducted at the call of the Mayor or two Council members via electronic means including audio or video conference. Such meetings may be held, providing such notice to the public and media as is reasonable under the circumstances, and if possible, providing access to the public and including a means for public participation. All such meetings shall be considered "emergency meetings" under the law. During this period of emergency, Council Rules are hereby modified to require an affirmative vote of a majority of a quorum present, electronically or physically, at the meeting for the passage of any council bill or to provide policy direction.
- D. Meetings of Boards and Commissions.** That the Mayor may cancel meetings of any board or commission to which the Mayor appoints members. Any such cancellation shall automatically extend such deadlines for required actions by such

board or commission as is specified in the cancellation notice.

- E. Licensed or Permitted Activities.** That the Mayor may suspend licenses or permits for special events or any other licenses or permits issued by the City which in the judgment of the Mayor could impact the public health or well-being of residents or visitors to the community.
- F. Purchases.** That the Mayor or his designee may authorize any purchase for which funds are available reasonably related to the emergency. Such purchases may be made without following each formal requirement of Chapter 2, Article VI of the City of Ottawa Municipal Code.
- G. Personnel Policies.** That the Mayor or his designee is hereby authorized to adjust any personnel policies related to leave time, other benefits or terms and conditions of employment as are reasonably related to providing sufficient staffing during the term of the emergency.
- H. Bargaining Units.** That the Mayor or his designee is hereby authorized to enter into such temporary agreements, including memoranda of understanding with the City's bargaining units in order to promote the provision of City services and the health and safety of the public and employees during the emergency.
- I. City Facilities.** That the Mayor or his designee is hereby authorized to close City facilities as is reasonably required to protect the health of the public and employees of the City.
- J. Ordinance Violations.** That the City Attorney is hereby authorized to extend any timeframe for payment or filing related to City ordinance violations in recognition of the emergency.
- K. Amounts Due and Owing.** That the Mayor or his designee is hereby authorized to extend deadlines for payment related to any amounts due and owing to the City.
- L. Other Emergency Powers.** That the Mayor may issue the following orders which will have the force of law:


 - a. Order City employees or agents, on behalf of the City, to take possession of any real or personal property of any person, or to acquire full title or such lesser interest as may be necessary to deal with a disaster or emergency, and to take possession of and for a limited time, occupy and use any real estate to accomplish alleviation of the disaster, or the effects thereof. In the event any real or personal property is utilized by the City, the City shall be liable to the owner thereof for the reasonable value of the use or for just compensation as the case maybe.
 - b. Order the control, restriction and regulation within the City by rationing, issuing quotas, fixing or freezing prices, allocating the use, sale or distribution of food, fuel, medicines, clothing and other commodities,

- materials, goods or services or the necessities of life.
- c. Order restrictions on ingress or egress to parts of the City to limit the occupancy of any premises.
 - d. To make provision for the availability and use of temporary emergency housing; Temporarily suspend, limit, cancel, convene, reschedule, postpone, continue, or relocate all meetings of the City Council, and any City committee, commission, board, authority, or other City body as deemed appropriate by the Mayor.
 - e. Require closing of business establishments.
 - f. Temporarily close any and all streets, alleys, sidewalks, bike paths, public parks or public ways.
 - g. Temporarily suspend or modify, for not more than sixty (60) days, any regulation or ordinance of the City, including, but not limited to, those regarding health, safety, and zoning. This period may be extended upon approval of the City Council.
 - h. Suspend or limit the use of the water resources or other infrastructure.
 - i. Control, restrict, allocate, or regulate the use, sale, production, or distribution of food, water, fuel, clothing, and/or other commodities, materials, goods, services and resources.
 - j. Allow, Suspend or limit burning of any items or property within the City limits.
 - k. Direct and compel the evacuation of all or part of the population from any stricken or threatened areas within the City if the mayor deems this action is necessary for the preservation of life, property, or other disaster or emergency mitigation, response or recovery and to prescribe routes, modes of transportation and destination in connection with an evacuation.
 - l. Approve application for local, state, or federal assistance.
 - m. Establish and control routes of transportation, ingress or egress.
 - n. Control ingress and egress from any designated disaster or emergency area or home, building or structures located therein, including the enforcement of quarantines.
 - o. Approve the transfer the direction, personnel, or functions of City departments and agencies for the purpose of performing or facilitating emergency or disaster services.
 - p. Accept services, gifts, grants, loans, equipment, supplies, and/or materials used for disaster relief whether from private, nonprofit, or governmental sources.
 - q. Require the continuation, termination, disconnection, or suspension of natural gas, electrical power, water, sewer, communication or other public utilities or infrastructure.
 - r. Close or cancel the use of any municipally owned or operated building or other public facility.
 - s. Declare, issue, enforce, modify and terminate orders for quarantine and isolation of persons or animals posing a threat to the public, not conflicting with the directions of the Director of Public Safety.
 - t. Exercise such powers and functions in light of the exigencies of emergency

- or disaster including the waiving of compliance with any time-consuming procedures and formalities, including notices, as may be prescribed by law.
- u. Issue any and all such other orders or undertake such other functions and activities as the Mayor reasonably believes is required to protect the health, safety, and welfare of persons or property within the City or otherwise preserve the public peace or abate, clean up, or mitigate the effects of any emergency or disaster.

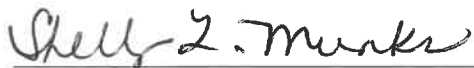
M. Declaration. This shall be construed as a declaration of a local disaster as provided for under 20 ILCS 3305/11.

This Declaration is effective at 3 o'clock p.m. on the 20th day of March, 2020.



Daniel F. Aussem,
Mayor of the City of Ottawa

Attest:



Shelly M. Munks, City Clerk

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