



# **DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY**

## **Preamble**

The Board of Selectmen of the Town of Milford voted, in light of the rapidly evolving instances of COVID-19 in the Commonwealth and the burdens it will place on local government, to adopt the following declaration of emergency:

## **Declaration**

**WHEREAS**, the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) is a highly contagious and potentially fatal respiratory disease, the prevalence of which is increasing rapidly throughout the world, inclusive of the United States and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 11, 2020 the World Health Organization designated the COVID-19 outbreak a Pandemic Health Emergency; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 10, 2020, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts issued a Declaration of a State of Emergency to Respond to COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States announced a national declaration of emergency; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 15, 2020, Governor Baker announced emergency actions to respond to the evolving COVID-19 public health emergency impact upon the Commonwealth, including prohibitions on public gatherings of twenty-five or more people and prohibiting on-premises consumption of food or drink at bars and restaurants from March 17, 2020 until April 6, 2020, as well as suspension of elementary and secondary school educational operations from March 17, 2020 until April 6, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, the Milford Board of Selectmen in consultation with the Town's emergency management personnel and the Milford Board of Health, and the State Department of Public Health has determined that COVID-19 presents a major disaster which poses an immediate threat to public health, safety, and general welfare of people residing both within and outside of the Town of Milford, so that it has become necessary for the Town to utilize and coordinate the services, equipment, supplies and facilities of existing departments, offices and agencies of the Town of Milford for the purposes of civil defense/emergency management and emergency functions; and

**WHEREAS**, the Milford Board of Selectmen, in consultation with the Town's emergency management personnel and the Milford Board of Health, has determined that immediate public action is needed in order to prevent, mitigate, or minimize the spread of COVID-19 by and among the people of Milford, and to prevent, minimize, or mitigate damage to the public health, safety or general welfare of the people of Milford, and

**WHEREAS**, it is critical to take additional steps to prepare for, respond to, and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 to protect the health and welfare of the people of Milford; and

**WHEREAS**, declaring a state of emergency will facilitate and expedite the use of resources to protect persons from the impacts of COVID-19, including but not limited to emergency expenditures pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 31 and limitations on operating hours and access to public buildings; and

**WHEREAS**, the Milford Board of Selectmen in consultation with the Town's emergency management personnel and the Milford Board of Health recommends that a state of emergency be declared in the town of Milford,

**NOW THEREFORE**, we, the Milford Board of Selectmen, in consultation with the Town's emergency management personnel and the Milford Board of Health of the Town of Milford, Massachusetts, hereby declare that as of today, March 23, 2020, a state of emergency exists in

the Town of Milford. This declaration of emergency shall remain in effect until further notice is given, pursuant to our judgment that the conditions leading to this declaration no longer exist.

Dated: March 23, 2020

Signed:

  
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William D. Buckley, Chairman