



CITY OF NEW CASTLE
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

PROCLAMATION OF DISASTER EMERGENCY

March 18, 2020

WHEREAS, a novel coronavirus (now known as "COVID-19") emerged in Wuhan, China, began infecting humans in December 2019, and has since spread to 89 countries, including the United States; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") have declared COVID-19 a "pandemic" and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services ("HHS") Secretary has declared that COVID-19 creates a public health emergency; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania ("Commonwealth") has been working in collaboration with the CDC, HHS, and local health agencies since December 2019 to monitor and plan for the containment and subsequent mitigation of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on February 1, 2020, the Commonwealth's Department of Health activated its Department Operations Center at the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency's headquarters to conduct public health and medical coordination for COVID-19 throughout the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2020, the Director of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency ordered the activation of its Commonwealth Response Coordination Center in support of the Department of Health's Department Operations Center, to maintain situational awareness and coordinate the response to any potential COVID-19 impacts across the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, as of March 6, 2020, there are hundreds of confirmed and/or presumed positive cases of COVID-19 in the United States, including several positive cases in Western Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, while it is anticipated that a high percentage of those affected by COVID-19 will experience mild influenza-like symptoms, COVID-19 is a disease capable of causing severe symptoms or loss of life, particularly to older populations and those individuals with preexisting conditions; and

WHEREAS, it is critical to prepare for and respond to suspected or confirmed cases in the Commonwealth and to implement measures to mitigate the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, with 113 positive cases in the Commonwealth as of March 18, 2020, the possible increased threat from COVID-19 constitutes a threat of imminent disaster to the health of the citizens of the City of New Castle; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has declared and proclaimed the existence of a disaster emergency throughout the Commonwealth on March 6, 2020; and

WHEREAS, this threat of imminent disaster and emergency has the potential to cause significant adverse impacts upon the population throughout the City of New Castle; and

WHEREAS, this threat of imminent disaster and emergency has already caused schools to close, and will likely prompt additional local measures, including county and municipal governments in and around the City of New Castle to declare local disaster emergencies because of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, this threat of imminent disaster and emergency situation throughout the City of New Castle is of such magnitude and severity as to render essential the City's services and use of emergency resources and mutual aid to require the activation of emergency response plans.

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to the provisions of the Third Class City Code (11 Pa.C.S. 11203) and the Emergency Management Services Code (35 Pa.C.S. 7501) as it related to the City of New Castle, in order to activate the response and recovery aspects of any and all applicable local emergency management plans and to authorize the furnishing of aid and assistance thereunder, I do hereby proclaim the existence of a disaster emergency throughout the City of New Castle.

FURTHER, I hereby direct that the applicable emergency response and recovery plans of the City of New Castle be activated as necessary and that actions taken to implement those plans be coordinated through the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency.

STILL FURTHER, this proclamation shall be effective at 4:00 PM March 18, 2020 and shall continue until 4:00 PM on March 23, 2020, unless extended by act of the Council of the City of New Castle.



GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Mayor of the City of New Castle, Pennsylvania this Eighteenth day of March in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty.

Chris Frye Jr.
Mayor