

EXECUTIVE ORDER

2020-13

December 14, 2020

Continued 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 and infection rates remain in Rhode Island remain at the highest per capita in the United State of America;

WHEREAS, the Town of Tiverton, by and through its Town Council President, Patricia Hilton, previously issued a Declaration of Municipal Emergency on March 16, 2020;

WHEREAS, on November 3, 2020, a municipal election was held which elected a new town council that will be sworn in on Monday, December 14, 2020;

WHEREAS, a reorganization of the Town Council will require the election of a new council president and vice president;

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, Dennis de Medeiros, 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 performing 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. Town offices and departments may operate on a modified schedule and will restrict in-person business activities. Town Hall offices will remain open by appointment only.
4. 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.
5. 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.

6. This Order shall take effect immediately and remain in full force and effect upon execution, and with the consent of the Town Council, it shall continue in effect and automatically renew until repealed by that body.
7. All other previous Executive Orders promulgated not inconsistent with this Order shall remain in full force in effect.

So Ordered:

Denise M deMedeiros

Title: President, Town of Tiverton

Date: *12/14/2020*