



City of Alexandria

301 King St., Room 2400
Alexandria, VA 22314

Legislation Text

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City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: MARCH 13, 2020
TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL
FROM: MARK B. JINKS, CITY MANAGER /s/

DOCKET TITLE:

Resolution Consenting to a Local Emergency Declaration for COVID-19.[ROLL-CALL VOTE]

ISSUE: Resolution consenting to a Declaration of Local Emergency for COVID-19.

RECOMMENDATION: (1) Consent to the City Manager signing the attached Declaration of Local Emergency; and (2) Authorize the Director of Emergency Management to enter into contracts, incur obligations and exercise powers as enumerated in Section 44-146.21 of the Code of Virginia.

DISCUSSION: As a result of COVID-19, on March 14, 2020, I propose to sign and issue a Declaration of Local Emergency (Attachment 1) so that the City is positioned to exercise emergency powers as enumerated in Section 44-146.21 of the Code of Virginia, the Governor's Executive Order Declaring a State of Emergency (Attachment 2) issued on March 12, 2020, the President's Declaration of National Emergency of March 13, 2020, as well as to take advantage of any State or federal assistance that might become available. It is customary for the Commonwealth of Virginia and the federal government to require that a Declaration of Local Emergency be issued prior to either of these levels of government reimbursing a local government for emergency related expenses. At this point it is not known what aid may become available to localities, but having a Declaration put in place is in the City's interest for financial as well as emergency management reasons. It is customary for City Council to approve such declarations, however declarations are usually for weather and not public health related reasons.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Proposed Declaration of Local Emergency, City of Alexandria
2. Governor Northam's Executive Order (March 12, 2020)

STAFF:

Corey A. Smedley, Emergency Management Coordinator/Fire Chief

Ray Whatley, Assistant Emergency Management Coordinator/EMS Captain



**DECLARATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY
CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA**

WHEREAS, the Director of Emergency Management of the City of Alexandria, Virginia finds that, due to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). COVID-19 is a Communicable Disease of Public Health Threat for Virginia and is of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant a coordinated response by City departments, agencies, and voluntary organization.

THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY DECLARED, that a local emergency exists throughout the City of Alexandria; and

IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED, that during the existence of said emergency, the powers, functions and duties of the Director of Emergency Management shall be those prescribed by State law, as well as the Governor's Executive Order of March 12, 2020, the President's Declaration of National Emergency of March 13, 2020, and the ordinances, resolutions and operations plans of the City of Alexandria, and that any actions taken under this declaration shall be directed at the prevention or response for, damages, loss, hardship or suffering threatened by, or resulting from, the emergency.

The declaration is effective March 14, 2020, at 1700 hours and this declaration shall expire at June 10, 2020, unless extended or sooner terminated by the Director of Emergency Management in writing.

Mark B. Jinks, City Manager
Director of Emergency Management

Attest:

Gloria A. Sitton, CMC, City Clerk
City of Alexandria, Virginia



Commonwealth of Virginia
Office of the Governor

Executive Order

NUMBER FIFTY-ONE (2020)

DECLARATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY DUE TO NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

Importance of the Issue

The Commonwealth of Virginia is monitoring an outbreak of a respiratory illness referred to as the coronavirus (COVID-19), which has spread from Wuhan, Hubei Province, China to more than 80 other locations internationally, including the Commonwealth. The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) has been working with local, state, and federal officials, healthcare and emergency management experts, and various state agencies to form a COVID-19 Taskforce to prepare for and respond to this threat. Given recent confirmed occurrences of COVID-19 within the Commonwealth and in neighboring states, as well as information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, it is anticipated that the disease will spread.

Therefore, on this date, March 12, 2020, I declare that a state of emergency exists in the Commonwealth of Virginia to continue to prepare and coordinate our response to the potential spread of COVID-19, a communicable disease of public health threat. The anticipated effects of COVID-19 constitute a disaster as described in § 44-146.16 of the *Code of Virginia (Code)*. By virtue of the authority vested in me by Article V, Section 7 of the Constitution of Virginia, by §§ 44-146.17 and 44-75.1 of the *Code*, as Governor and Director of Emergency Management and Commander-in-Chief of the Commonwealth's armed forces, I proclaim a state of emergency. Accordingly, I direct state and local governments to render appropriate assistance to prepare for this event, to alleviate any conditions resulting from the situation, and to implement recovery and mitigation operations and activities so as to return impacted areas to pre-event conditions as much as possible. Emergency services shall be conducted in accordance with § 44-146.13 *et seq.* of the *Code*.

In order to marshal all public resources and appropriate preparedness, response, and recovery measures, I order the following actions:

- A. Implementation by state agencies of the Commonwealth of Virginia Emergency Operations Plan, as amended, along with other appropriate state plans.

- B. Activation of the Virginia Emergency Operations Center and the Virginia Emergency Support Team, as directed by the State Coordinator of Emergency Management, to coordinate the provision of assistance to state, local, and tribal governments and to facilitate emergency services assignments to other agencies.
- C. Authorization for the heads of executive branch agencies, on behalf of their regulatory boards as appropriate, and with the concurrence of their Cabinet Secretary, to waive any state requirement or regulation, and enter into contracts without regard to normal procedures or formalities, and without regard to application or permit fees or royalties. All waivers issued by agencies shall be posted on their websites.
- D. Activation of § 59.1-525 *et seq.* of the *Code* related to price gouging.
- E. Activation of the Virginia National Guard to State Active Duty.
- F. Authorization of a maximum of \$10,000,000 in state sum sufficient funds for state and local government mission assignments and state response and recovery operations authorized and coordinated through the Virginia Department of Emergency Management allowable by The Stafford Act, 42 U.S.C. § 5121 *et seq.* Included in this authorization is \$1,000,000 for the Department of Military Affairs, if it is called to State Active Duty.

Effective Date of this Executive Order

This Executive Order shall be effective March 12, 2020, and shall remain in full force and in effect until June 10, 2020 unless sooner amended or rescinded by further executive order. Termination of this Executive Order is not intended to terminate any federal type benefits granted or to be granted due to injury or death as a result of service under this Executive Order.

Given under my hand and under the Seal of the Commonwealth of Virginia, this 12th day of March, 2020.



A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Ralph S. Northam", is written over a horizontal line.

Ralph S. Northam, Governor

Attest:

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Kelly Thomasson", is written over a horizontal line.

Kelly Thomasson, Secretary of the Commonwealth