

DECLARATION OF CITY STATE OF EMERGENCY- March 30, 2020

Pursuant to the powers granted to me by the City of Greenbelt City Charter and the City of Greenbelt Emergency Preparedness and Operations Plan, I, *Nicole C. Ard*, City Manager, have declared a Municipal Emergency in the City of Greenbelt due to an outbreak of a disease which constitutes an imminent threat to the health, safety, and welfare of the City and its residents.

Whereas, As of March 24, 2020, there were positive confirmed cases of Novel Coronavirus or COVID-19 in every American state and a growing number of territories and countries around the world. There were fifty-seven (57) confirmed cases in Prince George's County, including two (2) deaths attributed to the disease. The transmission of the COVID-19 in the County and State is a threat to human health in the City of Greenbelt.

Whereas, On March 5, 2020, the Honorable Governor Larry J. Hogan, Jr., declared a state of emergency as a result of Novel Coronavirus, COVID-19. Governor Hogan described a public health catastrophe, a public emergency, and an immediate danger to public safety in the State of Maryland. On March 23, 2020 Governor Hogan order additional action including closure of non-essential businesses.

Whereas, Upon the Gubernatorial order, pursuant to the City of Greenbelt Emergency Preparedness and Operations Plan adopted by City Council, the City of Greenbelt automatically entered into a State of Emergency which allowed the City Manager to continue to conduct activities necessary to support the Prince George's County Health and Emergency Management officials who are leading the local response to the international pandemic as well as ensure continuity of City government. City staff continued to coordinate these activities in accordance with Centers for Disease Control and County Health guidance, as well as Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks's emergency declaration for Prince George's County, within which Greenbelt is located. Per the adopted City emergency plan, like the gubernatorial impact, the Executive's declaration also created an additional state of emergency. The City Manager continued emergency response activities to comply with State and County orders and emerging Federal, State, and County health and emergency operations guidance. President Donald J. Trump issued an executive order declaring a FEMA Disaster Declaration Number COVID-19 (EM-3430) on March 13, 2020, thus triggering a similar Federal state of emergency per the adopted plan.

Whereas, Pursuant to prior verbal and written daily correspondence to City Council, the City Manager is authorized to declare a City State of Emergency per the Council approved emergency plan. The City of Greenbelt emergency declaration is to address anticipated financial aspects of this unprecedented emergency.

Whereas, The Charter and City Code outline the City Manager's appointed, non-partisan, apolitical role in overseeing City government, implementing City laws and ordinances, including but not limited to Budget, Public Safety (Police and Fire), Laws, Personnel, Streets, Parks, Traffic and Refuse. The City Manager serves as conservator of the peace.

Whereas, According to Charter Sec. 40. Purchases, the City Manager controls the purchase, storage and distribution of all supplies, materials, equipment, and contractual services required by City government, with exemption or waiver of competition bid procedures in the best interest of the City or the Council determines an emergency exists. This includes a \$10,000 threshold for competitive bid process. As effected in the emergency plan adopted by Council, an emergency exists (1937, Ch. 532, Section 38; Ord. No 423, 5-20-60; Char. Am. Res. No 1969-2, 7-8-69; Char. Am. Res. No 274, Section 3-18-74; Char. Am. Res. No 1985-1, Section 1, 1-7-85, Greenbelt Emergency Preparedness and Operations Plan, 2002). Sec. 52, Emergency Appropriations, are to meet public emergency affecting life, health, property, or the public peace are within the realm of budget amendments made after adoption and are addressed under Charter Sec. 52 Emergency Appropriations and c) Transfer of appropriations at any time during the fiscal year may transfer part of all of any unencumbered appropriation balance among programs within a department or agency and the council may by resolution transfer part of all of any unencumbered appropriation balance from one (1) department, office or agency. The City traditionally conducts budget amendments after the fiscal year ends, in July or August. However, the emergency may require the government body to consider such matters virtually in a public setting retroactively.

Whereas, It is for that reason, prior to this City declaration, I authorized actions to keep the community safe and to assist with limiting the spread of the Novel Coronavirus, COVID-19. Now, Therefore, By the power vested in me by the State of Maryland, the Charter and City Code of Greenbelt, Maryland, be it so declared:

The City will continue to evaluate environmental conditions given the evolving Federal, State, and County guidance on the nature of COVID-19, emerging information and guidance, with little certainty regarding the length of this pandemic emergency, the City anticipates continued virtual emergency operations and teleworking to plan and respond to a long-term emergency that will require additional resources beyond the City's capacity. The City will continue to encourage individuals to observe all necessary health precautions to prevent and or reduce the potential of spreading COVID-19.

Upon enactment of the City emergency declaration, as authorized by the Council, the City Manager and the City staff will continue to act in a responsible, reasonable, efficient and lawful manner for public health, safety, and welfare with continued communication with Council, staff and the public.

ADOPTED by the City Manager of the City of Greenbelt, Maryland, March 26, 2020.

Nicole Ard

City Manager

