

**EXECUTIVE ORDER**

**2020-1**

**March 12, 2020**

**Declaration of State of Emergency**

WHEREAS, on January 30, 2020 the World Health Organization designated the novel coronavirus, COVID-19, outbreak as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern;

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020 the Rhode Island Department of Health established an Incident Command System response to COVID-19;

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 State of Rhode Island Governor Gina M. Raimondo 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, on March 11, 2020, the President of the United States addressed the nation about the threat posed by the outbreak of COVID-19 and announced a restriction on international air travel from 26 European nations for a period of thirty days starting on March 12, 2020;

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the United States State Department issued an extraordinary global health advisory;

WHEREAS, as of March 11, 2020 the outbreak of COVID-19 has spread to every continent except Antarctica and infected more than 121,000 people, causing approximately 4,300 deaths;

WHEREAS, the number of countries that are experiencing community transmission of COVID-19 continues to grow;

IN CITY COUNCIL

**MAR 19 2020**

READ

WHEREUPON IT IS ORDERED THAT  
THE SAME BE RECEIVED

 CLERK

WHEREAS, community transmission in the United States has occurred in at least two dozen 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;

WHEREAS, the State of Rhode Island and various public health officials have reached out to the City of Providence to take steps to contain the spread of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, the City of Providence needs to take additional measures to limit the spread of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, Rhode Island General Laws §§ 30-15-12 and 30-15-13, as well as the City of Providence's Code of Ordinances § 7-8, permit the Mayor to declare a state of emergency for the purpose of, among other things: providing for cooperation in epidemic prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery; preparing for emergency health threats that require the exercise of extraordinary governmental functions; providing the city with the ability to respond rapidly and effectively to potential or actual public health emergencies; and reducing the loss of life;

WHEREAS, Rhode Island General Laws §§ 30-15-9(e)(4) and 30-15-12(b), as well as the City of Providence's Code of Ordinances § 7-8, permit the Mayor to suspend the provisions of any statute, regulation, or requirement prescribing the procedures for the conduct of city business, or the orders, rules, regulations of any city department, 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), as well as the City of Providence's Code of Ordinances § 7-8, permit the Mayor to transfer the direction, personnel, or functions of city 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 and to prevent or minimize the loss of life.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JORGE O. ELORZA, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Providence, pursuant the Rhode Island General Laws and the City of Providence's Code of Ordinances, including, but not limited to, Title 30, Chapter 15 of the General Laws and Chapter 7 of the City of Providence's Code of Ordinances, do hereby order and direct the following:

1. A state of emergency is hereby declared for the City of Providence due to the dangers to health and life posed by COVID-19, and the City's disaster emergency

plan is hereby activated.

2. The Providence Emergency Management Agency and Office of Homeland Security (PEMA) is directed to activate the city's emergency operations center and all necessary city emergency response plans, policies, compacts, and agreements, to create and establish mobile support units, and to activate and deploy disaster response teams and disaster response workers to perform disaster response services.
3. All city 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 PEMA in all matters concerning this Order. Efforts to provide emergency disaster relief to the City of Providence should be coordinated by and through PEMA.
4. All entertainment licenses and special event permits, whether for night clubs, concerts, live music, or other events, are hereby revoked during the period of this state of emergency. The City will not be issuing any entertainment licenses or special event permits during the period of this state of emergency.
5. Bars and restaurants within the borders of the City may continue to remain open; however, they are limited in occupancy to one hundred (100) persons regardless of the establishment's size or configuration.
6. City officials are directed to cancel all non-essential official city meetings, limit the travel of city employees, and postpone all public events during the period of this state of emergency.
7. All city offices and operations shall otherwise remain open until further notice and shall continue to otherwise operate in their ordinary course of business;
8. 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.
9. Nothing in this Executive Order shall constrain duties and powers of the City, the Mayor, or PEMA authorized by Title 30, Chapter 15 of the General Laws and the City of Providence's Code of Ordinances §§ 7-1 *et seq.*
10. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately and remain in full force and effect through March 19, 2020, and, with the consent of the City Council, it shall

continue in effect and automatically renew for an additional period of seven (7) days through March 26, 2020.

So Ordered:

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'J' and 'E' followed by a horizontal line.

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Jorge O. Elorza  
*Mayor*