

BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG, SOMERSET COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
EMERGENCY DECLARATION

TO ALL CITIZENS AND PERSONS WITHIN THE BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG, LOCATED IN SOMERSET COUNTY, NEW JERSEY, AND TO ALL DEPARTMENTS, DIVISIONS, AND BUREAUS OF MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENTS OF SOMERSET COUNTY, NEW JERSEY,

WHEREAS, pursuant to the powers vested in us by Chapter 251 of the Laws of 1942, as amended and supplemented by N.J.S.A. APP 9-30 et. Seq. And N.J.S.A.2C:33-1 et seq., we have declared that a local disaster emergency exists within the Borough of Watchung, (hereinafter, the "Borough") Somerset County, New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the aforesaid laws authorized the promulgation of such orders, rules, and regulations as are necessary to meet the various problems which have, or may be, presented by such emergency; and

WHEREAS, by reason of the rapidly evolving spread of the novel Coronavirus, COVID-19, and the need for government operations to address the spread of COVID-19, which may further affect the health, safety, and welfare of the people of the Borough of Watchung and exacerbate existing conditions; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that certain measures must be taken in order to help contain and mitigate the spread of COVID-19, and to ensure that the proper authorities will be able to maintain law and order, and further, in order to protect the residents affected by the conditions; and

WHEREAS, the Borough is hereby designated an emergency area.

NOW, THEREFORE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH the aforesaid laws, the Borough does hereby promulgate and declare the following regulations shall be operative effective immediately in addition to all other laws of the United States of America, State of New Jersey, County of Somerset and the Borough;

- 1. The Borough Municipal Building will not be open to the public ("the Public"). The Public will utilize online payment options if available, U.S. Mail or drop box service at the Borough Offices for taxes, licenses, permits and other local business. Other municipal services will be done by appointment.**
- 2. The Public is requested to utilize phone, and/or email to make routine inquiries and/or report information to the Borough. Alternative procedures may be authorized by the Borough Administrator. As conditions permit, Township employees will staff respective offices but utilize methods to limit exposure.**
- 3. The Watchung Police Department is limiting in-person contact to emergencies only. Citizens should contact the Police Department via telephone for non-emergency matters. All emergencies dial 911.**
- 4. Parks, playgrounds, basketball and tennis courts, and other athletic facilities will be closed to any and all organizations and groups of a size greater than seven (7) persons, including family members.**
- 5. Restaurants and all other businesses are encouraged to follow policies and directives established by the CDC and Federal and State Authorities and that limit contact with and between the public to the greatest extent possible. The Governor of NJ, by Executive Order # 104 has mandated certain closures and placed numerous restrictions on businesses in an effort to keep everyone safe. Please review and follow all requirements of Executive Order #104 and any future Executive Orders.**

6. Borough sponsored recreation events are canceled until further notice. All Borough Planning Board, Zoning Board, Board of Health and departmental meetings are cancelled until further notice. Borough Council will conduct its meeting remotely. Any other club or sport and recreation events conducted on Watchung Borough property are also canceled.

7. All residents are encouraged to work from home and avoid any social gatherings. All businesses should use good faith measures to enable work from home capabilities for their employees.

8. Residents are asked to cancel all in-person meetings and to use conference calling and other forms of electronic communications.

9. All residents are asked to practice "social distancing" of six (6') feet from others, frequent hand washing, stay home when sick and other appropriate hygiene to prevent the spread of the COVID-19.

10. Residents will be required to follow State and Federal-mandated orders, including curfews, non-essential travel and quarantine protocols.

11. This Emergency Declaration shall be posted in at least five (5) conspicuous places within the Borough, published at least once in an official newspaper, and posted on the Borough's website.

12. Nothing in this Emergency Declaration is intended to limit the personal activities and actions of families within the Borough other than the recommendations relative to frequent hand washing and personal hygiene.

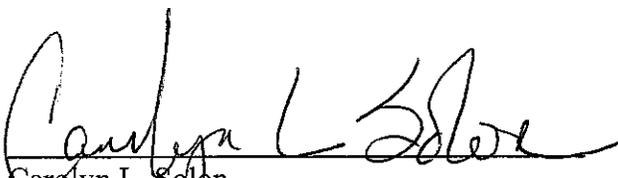
13. The Emergency Management Coordinator, in concert with the Mayor, shall have the right to call upon regular and auxiliary law enforcement and emergency response agencies and organizations within or without the Borough to assist in preserving and keeping the peace and in enforcing the terms and conditions of this Emergency Declaration during the period of emergency.

14. This Emergency Declaration shall be of a duration determined to be in the best interests of the residents and businesses of the Borough and shall be terminated only by a subsequent Declaration that such emergency no longer threatens the public safety, health and welfare of such residents and businesses.

15. Since this is an ongoing and rapidly evolving situation, modification of this Emergency Declaration may occur as conditions warrant.

DATE: March 17, 2020

TIME: 8:52 am



Carolyn L. Solon
Emergency Management Coordinator
Office of Emergency Management



Keith S. Balla
Mayor