

Town of Belmont

DECLARATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) is a highly contagious and potentially fatal respiratory disease, the prevalence of which is increasing rapidly throughout the world, inclusive of the United States and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; and

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts issued a Declaration of a State of Emergency to Respond to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020 the World Health Organization designated the COVID-19 outbreak a Pandemic Health Emergency; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States announced a national declaration of emergency; and

WHEREAS, on March 15, 2020, Governor Baker announced emergency actions to respond to the evolving COVID-19 public health emergency impacting the Commonwealth, including prohibitions on public gatherings of twenty-five or more people and prohibiting on-premises consumption of food or drink at bars and restaurants from March 17, 2020 until April 6, 2020, as well as suspension of elementary and secondary school educational operations from March 17, 2020 until April 6, 2020 (which suspension was expanded to early childhood education programs as of March 22, 2020, and which suspension was extended to May 4, 2020 by order dated March 25, 2020); and

WHEREAS, on March 23, 2020, Governor Baker issued an Order Assuring Continued Operation of Essential Services in the Commonwealth, Closing Certain Workplaces, and Prohibiting Gatherings or More Than 10 People; and

WHEREAS, a sudden, generally unexpected occurrence of circumstances demanding public action has arisen within the **Town of Belmont**; the COVID-19 Pandemic has impacted our community; the public's health and welfare is at risk; and this Pandemic will place extraordinary financial burden to the Town; and;

WHEREAS, The **Select Board** of the **Town of Belmont**, Massachusetts, upon advice from the Director of the Belmont Emergency Management Agency, have determined that the incident poses a present, reasonable and imminent danger to public health, safety, or general welfare of the people of **Belmont** or their property so that it has become necessary for the Director to utilize and coordinate the services, equipment, supplies, and facilities of existing departments, offices, and agencies of the community for the purposes of emergency management and emergency functions; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has determined that the immediate public action is needed to prevent, minimize, or mitigate damage to public health, safety, or general welfare of the people of **Belmont** or the property which may otherwise result from the above described incident and that taking the time required to comply with the various state and local procurement laws would endanger the health or safety of the people or their property; and

WHEREAS, the Select Board of the Town of Belmont and its Board of Health, in consultation with the State Department of Public Health has determined that COVID-19 presents a major disaster which poses an immediate threat to public health, safety, and general welfare of people residing both within and outside of Belmont; and

WHEREAS, the Select Board of the Town of Belmont and its Board of Health have determined that immediate public action is needed in order to prevent or minimize the spread of COVID-19 by and among the people of Belmont; and

WHEREAS, it is critical to take additional steps to prepare for, respond to, prevent and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 to protect the health and welfare of the people of Belmont; and

WHEREAS, declaring a local state of emergency will help facilitate and expedite the use of resources to protect persons from the impacts of COVID-19, including but not limited to emergency expenditures pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 31 and limitations on operating hours and access to public buildings; and

WHEREAS, the people of **Belmont** should be able to depend upon guidance from their Chief Municipal Officials,

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to the General Bylaws of the Town of Belmont, and Chapter 111, Section 104 of the Massachusetts General Laws, and all other necessary and appropriate powers and authorities, we, the Select Board and the Board of Health of the Town of Belmont, Massachusetts, hereby jointly declare that as of March 10, 2020 a Public Health Emergency exists in Belmont. This Declaration of Emergency shall remain in effect until notice is given, pursuant to the judgment of the Select Board and Board of Health, that the State of Emergency no longer exists.

We the undersigned certify, in multiple counterparts, that the foregoing declaration was made at a meeting of the Belmont Select Board and a meeting of the Belmont Board of Health duly noticed pursuant to Open Meeting Law as amended by the Governor's Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law dated March 12, 2020.

Date: March 26, 2020



Name: Thomas Caputo
Title: Chair, Belmont Select Board

Date: March 26, 2020



Name: Julie Lemay
Title: Chair, Belmont Board of Heath