

Subject: Council Resolution No. 41-2020
To: Lonnie R. Robbins, Chief Administrative Officer
From: Dr. Maura Rossman, Health Officer
Date: March 19, 2020

COVID-19 is a highly communicable respiratory disease that may result in serious injury or death. To control the spread of COVID-19, Governor Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr., Governor of the State of Maryland, declared a state of emergency and catastrophic health emergency. The Governor's Order applies to all political subdivisions within the State of Maryland.

As of today, the Governor has issued several executive orders to direct action in all of the political subdivisions of Maryland including social distancing and the prohibition against gatherings of a certain size. These orders can be found at: <https://governor.maryland.gov/category/executive-orders/>.

On March 15, 2020, the Howard County Health Department was informed of the first confirmed case of COVID-19 in Howard County. On that same day and pursuant to Section 6.103 of the Howard County Code (the "Code"), the County Executive issued Executive Order 2020-02 ("EO 02") that declared a local state of emergency in Howard County. The number of confirmed cases in Howard County has continued to increase.

Pursuant to Section 6.103 of the Code, if the threat or occurrence of an emergency appears likely to last more than seven days, the Council shall, prior to the end of the seventh day, consider a resolution that consents to the continuation of the state of emergency for such time as may be appropriate. The state of emergency declared by EO02 will expire on March 22, 2020.

Pursuant to Section 6.104 of the Code, during a declared local state of emergency, the County Executive can take certain actions known as emergency powers. In this instance, the County Executive has exercised his emergency powers by closing certain places of assembly to enforce social distancing.

COVID-19 is a catastrophic health emergency that continues to pose a risk of imminent harm, or even death, to individuals and continues to threaten the lives, health, and safety of individuals and will continue beyond March 22, 2020. The County Executive needs to continue to exercise emergency powers under Section 6.104 of the Code in order to protect the public health, safety, and welfare.

Council Resolution No. 41-2020 extends the local state of emergency while the state of emergency and/or the catastrophic health emergency declared by Maryland Governor Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr. remains in effect or until terminated by Executive Order issued by the County Executive, whichever is later.

Updates as to the County's response to COVID-19 can be found at:
<https://www.howardcountymd.gov/Departments/COVID-19-Coronavirus-Countywide-Updates>



HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES

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WILLIAM ANUSZEWSKI, ACTING FIRE CHIEF • CALVIN BALL, COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Subject: Council Testimony State of Emergency Extension

Date: March 19, 2020

To: Lonnie R. Robbins, Chief Administrative Officer

From: William G. Anuszewski, Acting Fire Chief

Good afternoon Council Chair and Fellow Council Members. I sit before you today to testify in favor of extending the State of Emergency Declaration presented by Howard County Executive Calvin Ball. At the time of me preparing this testimony, the number of positive COVID-19 patients in Howard County is 16. This a 500% increase in confirmed patients in just two days. To date, Howard County Department of Fire and Rescue Services (HCDFRS) has had 24 COVID-19 Patient's Under Investigation transports. I am sure that number has increased since drafting this testimony. Three of these patient transports were later confirmed positive for COVID-19, one of which resulted in six of our responders being quarantined as a result of exposure. I am happy to report that the six providers remain in good spirits and currently have no symptoms of COVID-19.

As you have heard, there are still many unknowns with this virus. The ongoing changes that have impacted the residents and businesses of Howard County are none that are made without considerable thought and concern for those they impact, but we must maintain our focus on public safety. Today, HCDFRS graduated the 43 trainee's that were in the academy to be compliant with the changes in the Governor's Declaration.

These are certainly unprecedented times in Howard County, but times like these are where communities like ours thrive. I understand the inconvenience that is placed on our residents and businesses, but these inconveniences will save lives in the long run. Without these steps, the exposure level will have a significant impact on the number of COVID-19 positive patients. In comparing to other outbreaks across the nation, our medical system here in Howard County would be stressed to the point where people may not get the timely critical care they need.

Thank you for your continued support and urgency in the matter.