



PROCLAMATION OF SUPPORT FOR NORTH CAROLINA GOVERNOR ROY COOPER'S STAY AT HOME ORDER TO SLOW THE FURTHER SPREAD OF COVID-19 & DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY TO THE COUNTY MANAGER

WHEREAS, the novel coronavirus disease-2019 (COVID-19) is a disease spreading across the globe causing flu-like symptoms, but with a significantly higher rate of death, particularly among those who are elderly or medically vulnerable; and

WHEREAS, the first COVID-19 case was detected in the United States on January 21, 2020, and the first case was confirmed in North Carolina on March 3, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, Health and Human Services Secretary, Alex M. Azar, II, declared COVID-19 to be a public health emergency in the United States; and

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, in order to address and mitigate the threat of COVID-19 to vulnerable populations and to slow the spread of COVID-19 in North Carolina, Governor Roy Cooper declared a state of emergency in North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, President Trump declared the COVID-19 pandemic to be a national emergency; and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, Franklin County and the Towns of Louisburg, Bunn, Youngsville and Franklinton collectively declared a county-wide state of emergency; and

WHEREAS, on March 27, 2020, North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper issued a Stay at Home Order and Strategic Directions for North Carolina in Response to Increasing COVID-19 cases (Executive Order No. 121); and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina General Assembly has adopted Article 1A of Chapter 166A of the General Statutes, entitled "North Carolina Emergency Management Act", which sets forth the authority and responsibility of the Governor, State agencies, and local governments in prevention of, preparation for, response to, and recovery from natural or man-made emergencies; and

WHEREAS, G.S. §166A-19.22, which is part of the North Carolina Emergency Management Act, authorizes cities to declare a state of emergency under conditions and following procedures contained in G.S. §166A-19.22; and

WHEREAS, in Franklin County, the powers to declare a state of emergency have been delegated to the Chair of the Board of Commissioners in accordance with G.S. §166A-19.22(a), and in Article III of Chapter 10 of the Franklin County Code of General Ordinances; and

WHEREAS, since execution of the March 16, 2020 Proclamation of a State of Emergency and over the week prior to the execution of this March 31, 2020 Proclamation of a State of Emergency (“Proclamation”) the number of individuals testing positive for COVID-19 has continued to increase in Franklin County from 0 confirmed cases on March 19th to 11 confirmed cases on March 31st; and

WHEREAS, in areas battling COVID-19, there is a severe shortage of medical supplies for health care workers and basic equipment to help the public avoid transmitting the disease; and

WHEREAS, the Public Health Director of Franklin County has determined it is essential to slow the community spread of COVID-19, that a Stay at Home order is critical to and will aid in slowing community spread, that such an order will provide relief to area hospitals by limiting a surge in COVID-19 cases and reducing the number of new cases requiring treatment and hospitalization, that such an order will further protect the public health and welfare, and that such an order is both reasonable and necessary to remediate these critical issues; and

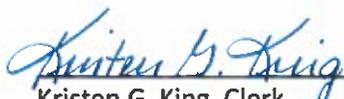
WHEREAS, as a result of this ongoing public health emergency, if further action is not taken to slow the spread of COVID-19, there is an imminent threat of, or existing conditions have caused or will cause, widespread or severe damage, injury, or loss of life or property, and public safety authorities may be unable to maintain public order or afford adequate protection for lives or property; and

NOW THEREFORE IT IS PROCLAIMED THAT, the County of Franklin will abide by Executive Order No. 121, the Stay at Home Order and Strategic Directions for North Carolina in Response to Increasing COVID-19 Cases, ordered by North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper on March 27, 2020, which is to ensure that the maximum number of people self-isolate in their places of residence to the maximum extent feasible, while enabling essential services to continue to slow the spread of COVID-19 to the maximum extent possible.

I FURTHER PROCLAIM, that I hereby delegate to the Franklin County Manager, and/or her designee, all power and authority granted to me and required of me by Chapter 166A and Article 36A of Chapter 14 of the North Carolina General Statutes, and by Article III of Chapter 10 of the Franklin County Code of Ordinances, for the purpose of implementing the referenced Emergency Operations Plan, and to take such further action as is necessary to promote and secure the safety and protection of those dwelling in the County.

This Proclamation shall take effect on March 31, 2020 at 5:00 p.m., and shall, along with the preceding Proclamation related to the emergency prompted by COVID-19, remain in effect until rescinded.

Signed at this date and time: March 31, 2020, at 5:00 p.m.


Kristen G. King, Clerk




Sidney E. Dunston, Chairman