



EXECUTIVE ORDER DECLARING TOWN -WIDE STATE OF HEALTH EMERGENCY AS PER THE LOUISIANA HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE AND DISASTER ACT, LA. REV. STAT. 29:721, ET. SEQ., AS TO THE IMMINENT HEALTH DANGER OF CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Health Emergency Powers Act, La. R.S. 29:760, et seq., confers upon the Governor of the State of Louisiana emergency powers to deal with public health emergencies, including an occurrence or imminent threat of an illness or health condition that is believed to be caused by the appearance of a novel or previously controlled or eradicated infectious agent or biological toxin, in order to ensure that preparations of this state will be adequate to deal with such emergencies or disasters and to preserve the health and lives of the people of the State of Louisiana; and,

WHEREAS, when the Mayor, as the chief executive officer of the Town of Abita Springs, determines that a public health emergency has occurred, or the threat thereof is imminent, La. R.S. 29:737 empowers him to declare a state of emergency by executive order or proclamation; and,

WHEREAS, La. Rev. Stat. 29:737(B)(1) authorizes the Mayor to, among other things, suspend the provision of any regulatory ordinance prescribing the procedures for conduct of local business, or the orders, rules or regulations of any municipal agency, if strict compliance with the provisions of any ordinance, order, rule, or regulation would in any way prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in coping with the emergency; and,

WHEREAS, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") is responding to an outbreak of respiratory disease caused by a novel (new) coronavirus that was first detected in China and which has now been detected in many other countries, including in the United States. The virus has been named "SARS-CoV-2" and the disease it causes has been named "coronavirus disease 2019" (abbreviated "COVID-19"); and,

WHEREAS, according to the CDC's website, person-to-person spread has been subsequently reported in countries outside China, including in the United States. Some international destinations now have apparent community spread with the virus that causes COVID-19, as do some parts of the United States. Community spread means some people have been infected and it is not known how or where they became exposed; and,

WHEREAS, on January 30, 2020, the International Health Regulations Emergency Committee of the World Health Organization declared the outbreak a "public health emergency of international concern" (PHEIC). On January 31, 2020, Health and Human Services Secretary Alex M. Azar II declared a public health emergency (PHE) for the United States to aid the nation's healthcare community in responding to COVID-19; and,

WHEREAS, a World Health Organization statement released March 7, 2020 stated that the global number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 has surpassed 100,000; and,

WHEREAS, as of March 13, 2020, the CDC's website reports that 49 states, and the District of Columbia, have reported cases of COVID-19 to CDC, for a total of 3,487 confirmed cases, and that states have reported 68 deaths resulting from COVID-19; and,

WHEREAS, in the last two days, several more Louisiana residents, including but not limited to residents in St. Tammany Parish, have tested presumptively positive for COVID-19; and,

WHEREAS, the State of Louisiana has reason to believe that COVID-19 may be spread amongst the population by various means of exposure, therefore posing a high probability of widespread exposure and a significant risk of substantial future harm to a large number of Abita Springs citizens; and,

WHEREAS, to timely and effectively meet the dangers presented by the emergency, it is necessary to immediately effectuate measures to detect, prevent, prepare for, investigate, respond to, or recover from the emergency, and generally to preserve the lives and property of the Town of Abita Springs; and,

WHEREAS, the Governor has issued Proclamation No. 25 JBE 2020, a declaration of public health emergency to allow state agencies to thoroughly prepare for any eventuality related to public health needs and deploy additional resources to assist local authorities, if necessary; and,

WHEREAS, as a result of the imminent threat COVID-19 poses to the health and welfare of the citizens of St. Tammany Parish, pursuant to La. Rev. Stat. 29:721, *et. seq.* including, in particular La. Rev. Stat. 29:727(D), St. Tammany Parish Government, through the Honorable Michael Cooper, as Parish President, has issued an Executive Order declaring Parish-Wide State of Emergency; and,

WHEREAS, as a result of the dangers presented by the emergency, the Honorable Dan Curtis, as the Mayor of the Town of Abita Springs, heretofore invokes all rights and duties afforded him under La. Rev. Stat. 29:737 and all other applicable statutes and regulations, until further notice.

IT IS ORDERED that pursuant the Louisiana Homeland Security and Emergency Assistance and Disaster Act, La. Rev. Stat. 29:721, *et seq.*, specifically La. Rev. Stat. 29:737, a Town-wide state of emergency is declared as a result of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) which has created emergency conditions that threaten the safety of the citizens of this Town; and,

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Honorable Daniel J. Curtis, as Mayor, maintains the authority to assume total control of the Town including, but not limited to, all private and public properties and utilities necessary to ensure the safety, health and welfare of the citizens and property of this Town and to issue all necessary orders; and,

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Office of the Mayor will take all necessary steps to prevent the disruption of water, electricity, and other necessary utilities as a result of economic hardship to ensure the safety, health and welfare of the citizens of this Town; and,

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Office of the Mayor invokes all rights and remedies afforded it under all the laws and constitutions of the United States and State of Louisiana; and,

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Office of the Mayor invokes all rights and remedies afforded it under Louisiana Revised Statutes; and,

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Office of the Mayor invokes all rights and remedies afforded it under the Town of Abita Springs Code of Ordinances; and,

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all meetings of Boards and Commissions are hereby suspended, including but not limited to the following:

- The Board of Aldermen
- The Planning Commission
- The Zoning Commission
- The Historic Commission
- The Mayor's Court

IT IF FURTHER ORDERED that pursuant to the State of Health Emergency as set out herein and the emergency authority of the Mayor under the law the following actions are taken:

- The Town Hall is closed to the public. All communication with the Town shall be by telephone or email
- All payments for utilities, permits or fines to the Town shall be by check or money order via U.S. Mail or the drop box in the Annex Building of the Town Hall.
- The Town playground is closed.
- Gatherings in excess of 10 people shall not be allowed at the Trailhead Park.
- No Town property shall be scheduled for rentals.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the state of emergency shall remain in effect until terminated by Executive Order.

At the Town of Abita Springs, Louisiana, this 17th day of March 2020 at 10:30am.



Honorable Daniel J. Curtis
Mayor, Town of Abita Springs