

THE TOWN OF FOREST HEIGHTS, MARYLAND
PROCLAMATION CONTINUING AND MODIFYING THE DECLARATION OF THE
EXISTENCE OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY AND OPENING THE MUNICIPAL
BUILDING FOR CERTAIN LIMITED PURPOSES

WHEREAS, the Governor, as of March 5, 2020 and thereafter, has issued orders initially declaring a state of emergency and catastrophic health emergency for the epidemic known as COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor of the Town of Forest Heights issued a proclamation declaring a local emergency on April 5, 2020 and therewith (i) closed the municipal building to the public, and (ii) declared all parks and open spaces closed to any human assembly including all courts, pavilions, fields and playgrounds, etc.; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council of Forest Heights passed Resolution 23-20 on May 4, 2020 approving an extension of the Mayor's Proclamation declaring an emergency on April 5, 2020 beyond 30 days and throughout the same duration as the Governor's State declared health emergency or until it is otherwise terminated by the Town; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council of Forest Heights passed Resolution 24-20 on May 20, 2020 approving certain compensation or hazardous duty pay for designated Town employees serving during the declared emergency, in part, paid for by the CARES Act; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council of Forest Heights passed Resolution 37-20 on June 1, 2020 cancelling Forest Heights Day and National Night Out for 2020, and adopting by reference Co. Executive Order No. 10-2020 and further allowing said Co. Order to be enforced by the Town; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor of the Town of Forest Heights issued a proclamation on July 23, 2020 continuing the health emergency and continuing to close the Municipal Building to the public except for essential police operations as well as adopting by reference Co. Executive Order No. 15-2020 and further allowing said Co. Order to be enforced by the Town; and

WHEREAS, an Order of the Governor of the State of Maryland Number 20-09-01-01 issued September 1, 2020, specifically authorized political subdivisions to issue more restrictive orders than issued by the Governor including requiring any businesses, organizations, establishments, or facilities to close or modify their operations; and/or requiring individuals to remain indoors or to refrain from congregating; and

WHEREAS, County Executive Order No. 20-2020 was promulgated on September 3, 2020, and pursuant to Section 14-111 (b)(1) of the Public Safety Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland the consent of the county governing body was provided to extend the local declaration for more than 30 days, and such was the primary purpose of CR-90-2020 adopted on September 15, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor of the Town of Forest Heights does hereby find the following:

That conditions of peril to the safety of persons and property continue to exist within said Town, caused by the COVID-19 epidemic; and

That the Mayor believes it is in the best interest of public safety and the protection of property that the exercise of certain rights be temporarily limited and that the conditions of this Order is designed to provide the least necessary restriction on those rights; and

That the Town Council of the Town of Forest Heights may meet in public session and pursuant to said Art. 2 of the Town Ordinance Code rescind, modify or extend this Order.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED that in addition to the Governor's State-wide emergency, that a local (municipal) emergency continues to exist throughout said Town; and

IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that during the existence of said local and/or State emergency the Town offices and Municipal Building will continue to be closed to the public and most of the staff will telework with the following exceptions: (i) police operations and use of spaces to support those operations, and (ii) to allow the conduct of organized municipal health maintenance or exercise classes approved by the Mayor or Council including a senior exercise class to be held in the Community Room of the Municipal Building every Tuesday and Thursday (5:30 P.M. to 6:30 P.M.).

AND IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that for any approved indoor exercise classes, the following shall be observed and followed at a minimum in addition to any other applicable health regulations or guidelines:

1. Exercise or fitness activity is limited to 1 resident per 200 square feet of space, wherever possible not to exceed 50% maximum capacity of room;
2. Maintain physical distancing (greater than 6'), wherever possible;
3. Adherence to Section II of CR-90-2020 by staff, employees and users;
4. Physical distancing markers for staff, employees and users;
5. High contact surfaces (those with hourly or greater contact frequency) will be cleaned with CDC and EPA- approved disinfectant at least every 2 hours; and
6. Wear Face Coverings that fully covers a person's nose and mouth while inside an indoor location.

AND IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that the Local (County) Order known as Executive Order No. 20-2020 issued by the County Executive, as amended from time to time, and CR-90-2020, as amended from time to time, are hereby adopted by reference herein as if written word for word herein below and shall be applicable and enforced by the Forest Heights Police Department within the corporate limits of the Town, and that the Mayor's Proclamation dated April 5, 2020, as extended, shall remain in effect except that (i) health maintenance or exercise classes as conditionally permitted hereinabove at the Municipal Building are allowed, and

(ii) all parks, parking lots, open spaces and other Town-owned real property, unless the appropriate agency having jurisdiction orders otherwise, shall only be accessible to individuals and small groups of less than ten (10) while practicing reasonable social distancing at least 6 feet apart or masking at all times; otherwise, the parks, parking lots, open spaces and other Town-owned real property shall remain closed to all other gatherings.

AND IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that County Executive Order No. 20-2020 and this Town Emergency Order shall remain in effect and shall be applicable and enforced by the Forest Heights Police Department within the corporate limits of the Town and said County Executive Order may be enforced by any other authorized law enforcement agency having jurisdiction within the Town.

AND IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that during the existence of said local and State emergency the powers, functions, and duties of the emergency organization of this Town shall be those prescribed by state law, by ordinances, proclamations (State and local) and resolutions of this Town, and by the Town of Forest Heights Emergency Operations or COOP Plan, as applicable.

AND IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that this Order shall take effect immediately and remain in effect for a period of 30 days unless the Town Council duly rescinds, modifies or extends the duration of the local emergency.

AND IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that a copy of this Order shall be delivered to the Governor of the State, the County Executive, the members of the Town Council, the Town Clerk, the Chief of Police and shall be posted at the Town Hall and published in the Town newsletter, the Town internet web site and social media accounts in order to give the widest dissemination of this Proclamation and Order to the public.

THE TOWN FOREST HEIGHTS

Dated:

Nov, 04, 2020

Habeeb-Ullah Muhammad
Habeeb-Ullah Muhammad, Mayor

