

**CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA**



Agenda Date:	March 12, 2020
Action Required:	Resolution Adoption
Presenter:	Andrew Baxter, Fire Chief
Staff Contacts:	Dr. Tarron J. Richardson, City Manager Andre Baxter, Fire Chief John Blair, City Attorney
Title:	COVID-19 Declaration of Emergency

Background:

The World Health Organization has declared Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) a Public Health Emergency of International Concern and later declared the spread of COVID-19 a pandemic of March 11, 2020.

The Governor of Virginia declared a State of Emergency on March 12, 2020 to prepare and coordinate Virginia's response to the potential spread of COVID-19.

Chief Baxter and the City Manager believe that the threat to public health and safety to the residents of the City of Charlottesville, Virginia posed by and resulting from the COVID-19 virus is of sufficient severity and magnitude to be an emergency as defined by Virginia Code Section 44-146.16.

Discussion:

The Declaration of Emergency provides a number of emergency powers to the City Manager in his role as Director of Emergency Management.

The most relevant powers that may be utilized during this particular emergency are streamlined procurement authority, the activation of the City's Emergency Operations Plan, and the ability of the City Manager to regulate the use sale and distribution of food and other commodities.

Budgetary Impact:

The budgetary impact of this Resolution is unknown at this time. Depending on the extent of the emergency, there could be significant expenditures related to supplies and equipment (i.e. protective gear).

Alternatives:

The Council could decline to adopt the Resolution

Attachments:

Resolution

Emergency Declaration

PUBLIC SAFETY ORDER

Date: March 12, 2020

DECLARATION OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY
IN RESPONSE TO CORONAVIRUS 2019 (COVID-19)

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization has declared Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) a Public Health Emergency of International Concern; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization declared the spread of COVID-19 a pandemic on March 11, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of Virginia declared a State of Emergency on March 12, 2020 to prepare and coordinate Virginia's response to the potential spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the threat to public health and safety to the residents of the City of Charlottesville, Virginia posed by and resulting from the COVID-19 virus is of sufficient severity and magnitude to be an emergency as defined by Virginia Code Section 44-146.16.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED pursuant to the authority vested in me by Virginia Code Section 44-146.21, as City Manager and as the City's Director of Emergency Management, I hereby declare that a local emergency exists within the City of Charlottesville. This declaration shall activate the City's local emergency operations plan and authorize the furnishing of aid and assistance thereunder.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED pursuant to Virginia Code Section 44-146.21, this Declaration shall authorize the Director of Emergency Management to control, restrict, allocate or regulate the use, sale, production and distribution of food, fuel, clothing and other commodities, materials, goods, services and resource systems which fall only within the boundaries of that jurisdiction and which do not impact systems affecting adjoining or other political subdivisions, enter into contracts and incur obligations necessary to combat such threatened or actual disaster, protect the health and safety of persons and property and provide emergency assistance to the victims of such disaster, and proceed without regard to time-consuming procedures and formalities prescribed by law (except mandatory constitutional requirements) pertaining to the performance of public work, entering into contracts, incurring of obligations, employment of temporary workers, rental of equipment, purchase of supplies and materials, and other expenditures of public funds (provided that, to the extent, if any that necessary expenditures exceed appropriations in the current approved budget, the City's Director of Finance must verify that unobligated funds are available therefor).

This Declaration is effective upon my signature and shall remain in full force and effect until the Charlottesville City Council considers the confirmation of this Declaration at its next regularly scheduled meeting or at a special meeting within forty-five days of this Declaration, whichever occurs first.

If the Charlottesville City Council confirms this Declaration, it shall remain in full force and effect until the Charlottesville City Council determines that all necessary emergency actions have been taken and takes appropriate action to end the declared emergency by a majority vote taken at an open meeting, in accordance with the provisions of Virginia Code Section 44-146.21(A).

Given under my hand, this 12th day of March, 2020.

Charlottesville Director of Emergency Management:
Dr. Tarron J. Richardson, City Manager

Dr. Tarron J. Richardson

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER
TO DECLARE A LOCAL EMERGENCY**

WHEREAS, the City Managers is designated as the Director of Emergency Management for the City of Charlottesville; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization declared the COVID-19 virus a “public health emergency of international concern” on January 30, 2020, and characterized the spread of the COVID-19 virus as a pandemic on March 11, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of Virginia declared a State of Emergency on March 12, 2020 to prepare and coordinate Virginia’s response to the potential spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 virus and its continued spread pose an imminent threat to the public health and safety of the residents of the City of Charlottesville and the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 virus and its consequences are of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant coordinated local government action to prevent or alleviate any potential damage, hardship, suffering, or possible loss of life.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Charlottesville, Virginia authorizes the City Manager, acting as the Director of Emergency Management, to declare a local emergency related to the COVID-19 virus on March 12, 2020; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, during the declared local emergency, the City Manager is authorized to exercise the powers conferred to him as the Director of Emergency Management by Virginia Code § 44-146.21 and any other provision of the Code of Virginia.