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YORK COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER
28 E. Market Street, York, PA 17401

DECLARATION OF DISASTER EMERGENCY FOR THE COUNTY YORK, PENNSYLVANIA

WHEREAS, a novel coronavirus (now known as "SARS CoV-2") emerged in Wuhan, China, began infecting humans in December 2019, and has since spread throughout the world, in including the United States and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania which has caused and continues to threaten to cause injury, damage and suffering to the persons and property of York County; and

WHEREAS, SARS CoV-2 is known to have the potential to cause Coronavirus Disease-2019 (COVID-19) in humans; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") has declared COVID-19 a "public health emergency of international concern," and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services ("HHS") Secretary has declared that COVID-19 creates a public health emergency; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization ("WHO") declared COVID-19 a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's Office of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania issued a Proclamation of Disaster Emergency on March 6, 2020, due to COVID-19 under the authority of 35 Pa.C.S. §§ 7101, *et seq.* that authorized the suspension of certain procedures and formalities prescribed by law and urged counties to "act as necessary to meet the current exigencies"; and

WHEREAS, the President of the United States declared a National Emergency on March 13, 2020 due to COVID-19 which will activate special powers of the federal government to combat the pandemic, such declaration has increased the authority of the Secretary of HHS to permit the

waiver of formalities and procedures otherwise required by law to provide funding and resources directly to states and communities to combat this health emergency; and

WHEREAS, emergency management measures are required to reduce the severity of this disaster and to protect the health, safety and welfare of affected residents in York County; and

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Services Code (35 Pa.C.S. § 7501) authorizes York County to declare a disaster emergency "upon the finding a disaster has occurred or is imminent."

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the York County Board of Commissioners ("Commissioners") pursuant to the provisions of Section 7501 of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Service Code (35 Pa.C.S. § 7501), do hereby declare the existence of a disaster emergency in the County of York due to COVID-19.

FURTHER, the Commissioners have created a Leadership Council to advise the County Administrative Offices and the County Emergency Management Agency in response to COVID-19 which consists of the Board of Commissioners, the Chief Administrative Officers, the County Emergency Management Director, Human Resources and the Solicitor's Office and any and all additional members as deemed necessary and appropriate by the Commissioners. This Leadership Council shall meet as needed in response to COVID-19 without the need to formally advertise times and places of meetings due to the exigent and evolving circumstances of this disaster, although, as time permits, every effort will be made to list the times and places of such meetings in advance on the County website.

FURTHER, the Commissioners direct the Leadership Council to coordinate the County's activities of the emergency response, to work with state and federal authorities, to take all appropriate action needed to alleviate the effects of this disaster, to aid in the continuation and restoration of essential public services, and to take any other emergency response action deemed necessary to respond to this emergency.

FURTHER, the Commissioners pursuant to 35 Pa.C.S. § 7501(d), authorize the temporary suspension of all formal requirements in light of the exigencies of this disaster emergency, pertaining to the performance of public work, entering into contracts and agreements for the performance of work as may be required to meet the emergency, all without regard to the time-consuming procedures and formalities prescribed by law (excepting mandatory constitutional requirements) to include the incurring of obligations, the employment of temporary workers, the rental of equipment, the purchase of supplies and materials, the levying of taxes and the appropriation and expenditure of public funds.

FURTHER, the Commissioners pursuant 35 Pa.C.S. § 7501 authorize the temporary modifications of work schedules and or job duties as is necessitated to appropriately respond to such disaster emergency.

STILL FURTHER, the Commissioners pursuant to 35 Pa.C.S. § 7504(a), are the responsible organization for the direction and coordination of disaster emergency management services when two or more political subdivisions within the County are affected by a disaster emergency. On or about March 13, 2020, the Governor's Office of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania announced that all K-12 Pennsylvania schools would close for ten business days effective March 16, 2020. The County is the organization that shall exercise responsibility for the coordination and support to the area of operations which includes the municipalities and school districts.

This Declaration shall take effect immediately.

Authorized this 16 day of March, 2020.

ATTEST:

Mark E. Derr, Chief Clerk

COUNTY OF YORK

Julie Wheeler, President Commissioner

Doug Hoke, Vice President Commissioner

Ron Smith, Commissioner