PROCLAMATION OF STATE OF CIVIL EMERGENCY

ISSUED MARCH 23, 2020

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2020 the Governor of the State of Ohio issued Executive Order 2020-01D, declaring a State of Emergency in the State of Ohio as a necessary state-wide preventive and proactive measure to slow the spread of COVID-19; and,

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020 the World Health Organization officially characterized the COVID-19 outbreak as a pandemic; and,

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020 the Columbus Board of Health, which provides public health services for the City of Worthington, declared a public health emergency in the City of Columbus and the City of Worthington due to the imminent threat of an acutely hazardous disease, posing a high probability of widespread exposure to an infectious agent that poses a significant risk of substantial harm to a large number of people, a large number of serious or long-term disabilities, or a large number of deaths; and,

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the Franklin County Emergency Operations Center (FCEOC) activated to support the coordination and response to COVID-19 within Franklin County pursuant to Revised Code Chapter 5502; and,

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020 the President of the United States of America declared a National Emergency, invoking the Stafford Act and allowing the Federal Emergency Management Agency to coordinate disaster response and aid state and local governments in addressing the COVID-19 pandemic; and,

WHEREAS, state and local governmental entities and certain private non-profit (PNP) organizations are eligible to apply for Public Assistance as a result of the Presidential declaration; and,

WHEREAS, as of March 20, 2020 the State of Ohio had 351 confirmed cases of COVID-19 including 34 cases in Franklin County and is currently experiencing "community spread" of the virus that causes COVID-19; and,

WHEREAS, on March 22, 2020 the Director of the Ohio Department of Health issued an order that all persons stay at home unless they are engaged in essential work or activities effective 11:59 p.m. on March 23, 2020; and,

WHEREAS, COVID-19 threatens the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the City of Worthington, negatively impacts local businesses, and substantially impairs the functioning of City government and its ability to protect the lives and property of the citizens of the City of Worthington.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Matthew H. Greeson, City Manager of the City of Worthington, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Ohio Constitution, the Ohio Revised Code, and the Charter and Codified Ordinances of the City of Worthington, do hereby make the following proclamations for the protection of life and property:

1. A State of Civil Emergency is hereby proclaimed pursuant to Chapter 507 of the Worthington Codified Ordinances for the entire City of Worthington to protect the lives and well-being of the citizens of the City as well as those who work, attend school, and visit the City, from the dangerous effects of COVID-19.

2. All provisions of the United States Code, the Code of Federal Regulations, the Ohio Revised Code, and the Ohio Administrative Code that are applicable to the National Emergency declared by the President, the State of Emergency declared by the Governor, and the public health emergency declared by the Columbus Board of Health are hereby invoked for the exercise of all necessary emergency authority and funding for the protection of the lives and property of the citizens of the City and the continuation of local government with a minimum of disruption.

3. All citizens are called upon and directed to fully comply with all necessary emergency measures, including but not limited to orders issued by the Governor of the State of Ohio, the Ohio Department of Health, or Columbus Public Health; to cooperate with public officials and employees executing emergency operational plans; and to obey and comply with the lawful direction of law enforcement officers, firefighters, and EMS personnel.

4. The City Manager, assistant city manager, department directors, the chief of police, and the fire chief are authorized to modify work schedules, reassign employees, and implement other emergency staffing measures as they determine necessary for the protection of life and property and provision of essential services to the citizens and businesses of the City.

5. The City Manager, assistant city manager, department directors, the chief of police, and the fire chief are authorized to make emergency purchases of any supplies, materials, equipment or contractual services whose immediate procurement is essential to prevent delays in the work of the departments and divisions which may vitally affect the life, health or convenience of citizens pursuant to Section 111.07 of the Worthington Codified Ordinances and the rules and regulations prescribed by the Finance Director.

6. All employees of the City are hereby directed to exercise the utmost diligence in the discharge of all duties required of them and in execution of all emergency laws, regulations, directives, and proclamations.

7. Additional proclamations necessary for the protection of life and property, the continuation of local government, and the provision of essential services to the citizens and businesses of the City will be issued as the need arises.

8. This Proclamation of State of Civil Emergency shall take effect immediately and shall remain in full force and effect until 11:59 p.m. on April 21, 2020 unless extended, modified, or earlier terminated by the City Manager or by a majority vote of the City Council.

I have signed this Proclamation of State of Civil Emergency on this 23rd day of March, 2020 in Worthington, Ohio.

Matthew H. Greeson
City Manager and Director of Public Safety
City of Worthington, Ohio