

Proclamation

Declaration of State of Emergency and Existence of Catastrophic Health Emergency-COVID-19

WHEREAS, an outbreak of disease (“COVID-19”) caused by the novel coronavirus occurred in Hubei province, China, in late-2019, and has currently been detected in more than 89 countries, including the United States;

AND WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a severe respiratory disease, resulting in illness or death, caused by person-to-person spread of the novel coronavirus, which was not previously found in humans;

AND WHEREAS, the novel coronavirus, as a viral agent capable of causing extensive loss of life or serious disability, is a deadly agent;

AND WHEREAS, the World Health Organization (“WHO”) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) have declared the COVID-19 outbreak a “public health emergency of international concern”;

AND WHEREAS, the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has declared that COVID-19 creates a public health emergency;

AND WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared that a state of emergency exists with regard to the threat to the health of our people, throughout the nation;

AND WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, the Governor of West Virginia declared that a state of emergency exists in West Virginia and its counties with regard to the threat posed by the novel coronavirus;

AND WHEREAS, the CDC has issued guidance to all state and local governments, and all citizens, recommending preparedness to prevent community spread and guard against the potential of a COVID-19 pandemic;

AND WHEREAS, as of March 16, 2020, the CDC found COVID-19 has infected individuals in 49 states, and resulted in a total of 4,740 confirmed and presumed positive cases in the United States causing 85 deaths;

AND WHEREAS, while, as of the morning of March 17, 2020, there are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in West Virginia, experts are of the opinion that the disease is present and active within West Virginia and that cases may be confirmed and reported within our borders soon;

AND WHEREAS, therefore, I find that the transmission of the novel coronavirus is a threat to human health in Berkeley County and, in an effort to take every precaution and to prepare for the worst case scenario while at the same time hoping for the best possible outcome;

AND WHEREAS, the person-to-person spread modeled by the CDC and WHO indicates that extensive

loss of life and/or serious illness or disability is threatened imminently in all of West Virginia because of the transmission of novel coronavirus;

AND WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a public health catastrophe and public emergency;

AND WHEREAS, COVID-19 poses an immediate danger to public safety; and

AND WHEREAS, the impending threat to Berkeley County by COVID-19 is a catastrophic health emergency requiring deployment of resources and assistance available only from the State of West Virginia and federal government to protect the health and safety of our citizens;

Now therefore I, Douglas E. Copenhaver, Jr., by the virtue of authority vested in me as the **President of the Berkeley County Council**, pursuant to W.Va. Code § 15-5-1, *et seq.* and the Berkeley County Emergency Operations Plan, adopted August 29, 2019, do hereby find and declare that, a **State of Emergency** exists in Berkeley County, West Virginia and hereby activate the Berkeley County Emergency Operations Plan and implement the operation of the Berkeley County Emergency Operations Center for the coordination of information and resources.

AND FURTHER, I declare this State of Emergency in Berkeley County, West Virginia to commence on the 17th day of March, Two-Thousand Twenty.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand.

DONE at the County Seat, Martinsburg, Berkeley County, West Virginia, this 17th day of March Two Thousand Twenty.

Douglas E. Copenhaver, Jr., President
Berkeley County Council

Attest:

John W. Small, Jr.
Clerk to the Berkeley County Council