



# CITY OF FRAMINGHAM

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## CITY OF FRAMINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS MAYOR YVONNE M. SPICER DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

**WHEREAS**, a sudden, generally unexpected occurrence of circumstances demanding public action has arisen or is about to arise within the City of Framingham due **to the pandemic spread of the novel coronavirus known as SARS-CoV-2, and persons suffering from the effects of the resulting illness caused by the virus, known as COVID-19 (“COVID-19 Pandemic”)**; and

**WHEREAS**, the COVID-19 Pandemic is a highly contagious and potentially fatal respiratory disease, the prevalence of which is increasing rapidly throughout the world, inclusive of the United States and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 10, 2020, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts issued a Declaration of a State of Emergency to Respond to the COVID-19 Pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 11, 2020 the World Health Organization designated COVID-19 outbreak a Pandemic Health Emergency; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States announced a national declaration of emergency in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 15, 2020, Governor Baker announced emergency actions to respond to the evolving COVID-19 Pandemic and the resulting public health emergency impacting the Commonwealth, including prohibitions on public gatherings of 25 or more people and prohibiting on-premises consumption of food or drink at bars and restaurants from March 17, 2020 until April 6, 2020, as well as suspension of elementary and secondary school educational operations from March 17, 2020 until April 6, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, Governor Baker’s March 15th order is applicable to all public meetings except those of state and municipal legislative bodies; and

**WHEREAS**, at a duly noticed and posted meeting held on March 16, 2020, and upon the recommendation of the Director of Public Health, the Framingham Board of Health recognized in its deliberations the serious public health threat presented by the COVID-19 Pandemic and voted to issue an order prohibiting all in-person public meetings of

any public body in Framingham from March 17, 2020 through March 31, 2020, except meetings of the Framingham City Council, the City's municipal legislative body, and to further recommend that the City Council voluntarily agree to refrain from holding in-person public meetings from March 17, 2020 through March 31, 2020 and instead conduct its meetings on a fully remote basis; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor of the City of Framingham, Massachusetts, in consultation and with the concurrence of the Director of Public Health Dr. Sam Wong and Police Chief and Emergency Management Director Steven Trask, and other Division Heads, has determined that the COVID-19 pandemic poses a clear and present danger to public health, safety, and the general welfare of the people of Framingham or their property so that it has become necessary for the Mayor, Public Health Director and Emergency Management Director and others to utilize and coordinate services, equipment, supplies, and facilities of existing departments, offices, and agencies or the community, both locally, regionally, statewide and nationally, if necessary, including the taking of ordinary and extraordinary actions for the purposes of emergency management and emergency functions to protect the public; and

**WHEREAS**, the COVID-19 Pandemic has resulted in a public health emergency with serious public safety impacts, and a Declaration of Emergency is needed to prevent, minimize, or mitigate damage to public health, safety, or general welfare of the people of Framingham and/or property which may otherwise result from the COVID-19 Pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, the people of the community of Framingham should be able to depend upon guidance from the Mayor, Division Heads and its other elected and appointed officials to take all necessary and reasonable actions to respond to and corral the spread of the COVID-19 Pandemic in Framingham; and

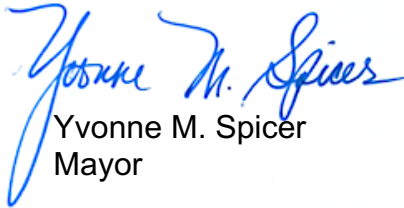
**WHEREAS**, declaration of a local state of emergency will enable the City to more promptly access and fully secure all state and federal funding that may be available now or in the future to help pay for the cost of Framingham's response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, including, without limitation, funding and reimbursement that may be available from the Federal Emergency Management Agency ("FEMA"); and

**WHEREAS**, declaration of a local state of emergency, will provide the Mayor, Division Heads and public health and safety personnel with a further resource to help the City manage and respond to the impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic in Framingham, and support the issuance of further orders to effectuate this Declaration of Emergency and otherwise to preserve public health, safety and welfare as the COVID-19 Pandemic evolves;

**NOW THEREFORE**, the Mayor of the City of Framingham, Massachusetts, hereby declares that effective as of **March 10, 2020**, the date of Governor Baker's declaration of a State of Emergency within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, a State of Emergency is hereby declared to exist by the Mayor in Framingham and hereby

authorizes, under her direction and the direction of the Directors of Public Health and Emergency Management, all City personnel and agents to take all those actions necessary and appropriate to respond to the COVID-19 Pandemic and hereby ratifies, confirms and adopts any related action taken prior to the formal adoption of this Declaration. This Declaration of Emergency shall remain in effect until notice is given, pursuant to the Mayor's judgment, that this State of Emergency no longer exists.

SIGNED THIS 22<sup>nd</sup> DAY OF MARCH 2020



Yvonne M. Spicer  
Yvonne M. Spicer  
Mayor

cc: City Council, School Committee, City Division and Department Heads, Boards and Commissions, Chief Operating Officer, City Solicitor, Dr. Robert Tremblay, Media Outlets