County Executive
of
Howard County, Maryland

Executive Order: 2020-02
Dated: ***March 15, 2020***
Subject: COVID-19

WHEREAS, I, Calvin B. Ball, the duly elected County Executive for Howard County, Maryland, acting pursuant to my authority set out in section 6.103 of the Howard County Code, have issued Executive Order 2020-02 (signed March 15th, 2020) declaring a State of Emergency in Howard County as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak event that creates a threat to the public health, safety, and welfare; and

WHEREAS, this COVID-19 outbreak event has caused and will continue to cause hazardous conditions throughout Howard County including, but not limited to, spread of infectious disease to all populations, and harmful outcomes for vulnerable populations; and

WHEREAS, these conditions pose a risk of imminent harm, or even death, to individuals and threaten the lives, health, and safety of individuals;

WHEREAS, on March 5, 2020, Governor Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr., Governor of the State of Maryland, declared a state of emergency and catastrophic health emergency to control and prevent the spread of COVID-19, a communicable respiratory disease that may result in serious injury or death, within the State of Maryland, including Howard County, a political subdivision of the State, and that emergency still exists; and

WHEREAS, on March 12, 2020, pursuant to his authority under Title 14 of the Public Safety Article of the Maryland Annotated Code, Governor Hogan signed an executive order recognizing that the U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommends social distancing to reduce the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 12, 2020, Governor Hogan signed an executive order prohibiting assemblies of more than 250 people, closing all senior centers, and restricting access to certain buildings; and

WHEREAS, the Howard County Health Department was informed of the first confirmed case of COVID-19 in Howard County on March 15th, 2020; and

WHEREAS, section 6.103 of the Howard County Code authorizes the County Executive for Howard County to declare a state of emergency within the County;

WHEREAS, section 6.104(a) of the Howard County Code authorizes the County Executive to exercise certain emergency functions during a declared state of emergency within the County, , including, but not limited to the following:

(1) Control traffic, including public and private transportation;
(2) Designate zones in the area of the emergency in which occupancy and use of buildings and vehicles may be controlled;
(3) Control places of amusement and places of assembly; and
(4) Control individuals on public streets;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED AND PROCLAIMED by the County Executive of Howard County, Maryland, that, in accordance with the authority granted by the Howard County Charter and section 6.103 of the Howard County Code, and pursuant to Title 14 of the Public Safety Article of the Maryland Annotated Code, **THAT A STATE OF EMERGENCY EXISTS IN HOWARD COUNTY MARYLAND**; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to the authority granted by section 6.104(a)(3) of the Howard County Code, to control places of amusement and places of assembly, that the following businesses are hereby closed:

(1) The Mall in Columbia and all businesses in the Mall proper, which does not include the restaurants located on Mall property but with entrances outside the Mall; and
(2) The Shops at Savage Mill; and
(3) AMC Columbia Movie Theater; and
(4) Regal Theater at Snowden Square; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that:

1. This Executive Order shall be promptly publicized; and
2. A copy filed with the Administrator to the County Council of Howard County; and
3. This Order shall continue from day to day, not to exceed seven days, unless terminated sooner by subsequent Executive Order or unless continued after seven days by resolution of the Howard County Council pursuant to section 6.103(c) of the Howard County Code.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I, Calvin B. Ball, as County Executive of Howard County, Maryland, have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of Howard County to be affixed this *15th day of March 2020.*

Calvin B. Ball
County Executive