



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT
999 BROAD STREET
BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT 06604
TELEPHONE (203) 576-7201
FAX (203) 576-3913

JOSEPH P. GANIM
Mayor

EMERGENCY LOCAL CHIEF EXECUTIVE ORDER

ORDER: No. 1

ISSUED: March 26, 2020
BY: Joseph P. Ganim, Mayor
FOR: City of Bridgeport, CT
FILING: at City Clerk's Office
POSTING: on City of Bridgeport's Website
PUBLICATION: in Mayoral Press Releases & Addresses
EFFECTIVE DATE / TIME: 12:01 AM on March 27, 2020

***PUBLIC GATHERINGS IN THE CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
INCONSISTENT WITH THE ORDERS OF GOVERNOR NED LAMONT
BE AND ARE HEREBY PROHIBITED***

WHEREAS, in early December 2019 the first cases of the Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) were reported in Wuhan, China, which rapidly grew to over 80,000 confirmed cases and over 3000 deaths in that country; and

WHEREAS, in a short period of time, the COVID-19 outbreak spread worldwide, and as of 11:30 AM on March 27, 2020 more than 559,069 confirmed cases and more than 25,280 attributed deaths have occurred globally; and

WHEREAS, as of March 27, 2020, the US has confirmed cases exceeding 86,043, deaths exceeding 1,304, with all fifty (50) states infected with COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, as of 1:00 AM on March 23, 2020, the State of Connecticut has 1,012 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 21 deaths; and

WHEREAS, as of the time of this Declaration, the City of Bridgeport has been linked through employment, residency or hospitalization to confirmed cases of coronavirus, with confirmed cases in Fairfield County exceeding the statewide average; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization (WHO) has declared the COVID-19 worldwide outbreak to be a “pandemic”; and its Director General has declared that containment is as important as treatment in managing this coronavirus pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) declared a public health emergency under section 319 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d) in response to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont issued a Declaration of Civil Preparedness and Public Health Emergency for the State of Connecticut, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes, Sections 19a-131 and 28-9, thereby granting the Mayor of Bridgeport significant emergency powers and authorizations; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, President of the United States Donald J. Trump issued a Proclamation on Declaring a National Emergency Concerning the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Outbreak; and

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2020 Bridgeport CT Mayor Joseph P. Ganim Proclaimed and Ordered a Declaration of Local State of Emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic and pursuant to his authority under Connecticut General Statutes, Sections 28-1 and 28a, and Bridgeport City Charter (including but not limited to Chapter 3, Section 1) and Bridgeport Code of Ordinances, Sections 10.28.030 and 2.02.070; and

WHEREAS, since March 12, 2020, Governor Lamont issued Executive Order No. 7 *Protection of Public Health and Safety During COVID 19 Pandemic and Response*; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, Governor Lamont issued Executive Order No. 7A *Protection of Residents of Nursing Home Facilities, Residential Care Homes and Chronic Disease Hospitals during COVID-19 Pandemic*; and

WHEREAS, on March 14, 2020, Governor Lamont issued Executive Order No. 7B *Protection of Public Health and Safety During COVID 19 Pandemic and Response - Further Suspension or Modification of Statutes*; and

WHEREAS, on March 15, 2020 Governor Lamont issued Executive Order No. 7C *Protection of Public Health and Safety During COVID 19 Pandemic and Response - Further Suspension or Modification of Statutes*; and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020 Governor Lamont issued Executive Order No. 7D *Protection of Public Health and Safety During COVID 19 Pandemic and Response – Crowd Reduction and Social Distancing*; and

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2020 Governor Lamont issued Executive Order No. 7E *Protection of Public Health and Safety During COVID 19 Pandemic and Response –Further Suspension or Modification of Statutes*; and

WHEREAS, on March 18, 2020 Governor Lamont issued Executive Order No. 7F *Protection of Public Health and Safety During COVID 19 Pandemic and Response –Further Crowd Reduction and Other Measures*; and

WHEREAS, on March 19, 2020 Governor Lamont issued Executive Order No. 7G *Protection of Public Health and Safety During COVID 19 Pandemic and Response –Presidential Primary Postponement and Additional Public Health Measures*; and

WHEREAS, on March 20, 2020 Governor Lamont issued Executive Order No. 7H *Protection of Public Health and Safety During COVID 19 Pandemic and Response –Restrictions on Workplaces for Non-Essential Businesses, Coordinated Response Report*; and

WHEREAS, on March 21, 2020 Governor Lamont issued Executive Order No. 7I *Protection of Public Health and Safety During COVID 19 Pandemic and Response –Municipal Operations and Availability of Assistance and Healthcare*; and

WHEREAS, on March 22, 2020 Governor Lamont issued Executive Order No. 7J *Protection of Public Health and Safety During COVID 19 Pandemic and Response –Clarifying EO No. 7H Regarding Operations at Non-Essential Businesses and Providing for Rapid State Government Emergency Response*; and

WHEREAS, on March 22, 2020 Governor Lamont issued Executive Order No. 7K *Protection of Public Health and Safety During COVID 19 Pandemic and Response –Remote Notarization, Suspension of Non-Critical Probate and Workers' Compensation Operations, and Various Public Health Measures*; and

WHEREAS, on March 22, 2020 Governor Lamont issued Executive Order No. 7L *Protection of Public Health and Safety During COVID 19 Pandemic and Response –Extension of School Cancellation, Municipal Retiree, Reemployment, Open Fishing Season and Additional Public Health Measures*; and

WHEREAS, on March 22, 2020 Governor Lamont issued Executive Order No. 7M *Protection of Public Health and Safety During COVID 19 Pandemic and Response –Extension of Agency Administrative Deadlines*; and

WHEREAS, on March 22, 2020 Governor Lamont issued Executive Order No. 7N *Protection of Public Health and Safety During COVID 19 Pandemic and Response –Increased Distancing, Expanded Family Assistance, and Academic Assessment Suspension*; and

WHEREAS, it is vitally important that local chief executive officer have, and exercise all powers and authorities necessary and available to limit the spread of the COVID-19 and to protect public health and safety within their jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, Connecticut General Statutes, Section 28-8a provides that the “chief executive officer of the municipality in which a major disaster or emergency occurs, or his designee, may take such action as he deems necessary to mitigate the major disaster or emergency and to secure

and preserve any documents and evidence pertinent to and necessary for a future investigation”; and

WHEREAS, the Charter of the City of Bridgeport, Chapter 3, Section 1, names the Mayor as the chief executive officer with ultimate operational control of all City departments and agencies; and

WHEREAS, the Charter of the City of Bridgeport, Chapter 3, Section 1 provides: (1) “the Mayor shall take care that the laws are executed and enforced within the city; shall be the conservator of the peace [within the city; shall have and may exercise, within the limits of the city, all the powers given the sheriffs or other officers as provided by law; and shall exercise ultimate operational control of all departments and agencies of the city”; (2) “[i]t shall be the duty of the Mayor to recommend the adoption of all such measures connected with police, fire, and public safety, public health and social services...” ; and (3) “[t]he Mayor shall have authority to perform such acts and duties as may be prescribed in this Charter or by the laws of this state or the United States or by the ordinances of the city of Bridgeport”; and

WHEREAS, the Bridgeport Code of Ordinances, authorize the Mayor to declare a state of emergency thereby placing the City’s emergency operation plan into effect (Section 10.28.030), and in the event of any natural disaster, or potentially dangerous situation authorize the Mayor to declare any area, building or dwelling a prohibited area for the purpose of preventing personal injury (Section 2.02.070); and

WHEREAS, as a consequence of the continued spread of COVID-19 and in support of the issuance of declarations of a public health emergency and civil preparedness emergency by Governor Lamont, and a national emergency by President Trump, and the spread of COVID-19 to a growing number of Connecticut (and in particular Fairfield County) residents, the Chief Executive Officer of the City of Bridgeport, Connecticut, Mayor Joseph P. Ganim, intends to exercise all reasonable and necessary legal authority on the local municipal level to aid, support and assist implementation of, and compliance with, Governor Lamont’s various executive orders; and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020 the Governor of the State of Connecticut amended and modified his Executive Order Number 7 with Executive Order Number 7D, to require that all such gatherings as contemplated and addressed by Executive Order Number 7 be limited to no more than 50 or more people; and, included “religious, spiritual or worship gatherings; and

WHEREAS, due to the significant adverse impact on public health of COVID-19, and the acceleration of the spread of the disease, the Mayor must act at the local government level for the purpose of ensuring civil preparedness and mitigating the adverse effects of this emergency upon the residents of the City of Bridgeport; and

WHEREAS, among best practices and prescribed measures of mitigation during this public health emergency both as prescribed by health care professionals and Governor Lamont’s various Executive Orders No. (no. 7 series) is social distancing combined with non-essential business and facility closures; and

distancing, and cessation of business, recreational and other activities to impede and slow the transmission of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 and the civil preparedness and public health emergency it has spawned also is creating an economic, financial and fiscal emergency for the City of Bridgeport; and

WHEREAS, the duties assigned by the City Charter to the Mayor of the City of Bridgeport invest in the Mayor the jurisdiction, duty and responsibility to cause the City's Charter and ordinances and other laws to be executed and enforced; and to conserve the peace within the City; and to be responsible for the proper and efficient operation of government of the City; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of the City of Bridgeport and its residents to promote public health and to ensure civil preparedness, to minimize the substantial adverse health, safety, and economic, financial and fiscal impacts and threats created by the current public health emergency and civil preparedness emergency posed by the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the City of Bridgeport's local government must do its part, and exercise its lawful powers, to keep the general public and itself as safe, healthy, economically effective, financially solid and fiscally sound as reasonably possible in view of the ongoing COVID-19 emergency.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that, there exists a civil preparedness and public health emergency as well as an economic, financial and fiscal emergency that exists in the City of Bridgeport. Pursuant to: the Connecticut General Statutes (including but not limited to Sections 28-1 and 28-8a); the Charter (including but not limited to Chapter 3, Section 1) and Code of Ordinances (including but not limited to Sections 10.28.030 and 2.02.070) of the City of Bridgeport; and in response to: the civil preparedness and public health emergency now facing the nation and the State; and the State of Connecticut Governor's March 10, 2020 Declaration of Civil Preparedness and Public Health Emergency; and the City of Bridgeport Mayor's March 17, 2020 Proclamation and Order Declaring a Local State of Emergency, gatherings of more than five (5) people for non-essential business, social and recreational activities, including but not limited to, community, civic, leisure, and sporting events; parades; concerts; festivals; movie screenings; plays or performances; conventions; and similar activities, are prohibited. This prohibition shall not apply to government operations, private workplaces, retail establishment or other activities that are not social or recreational gatherings; and religious, spiritual or worship gatherings shall not be subject to this restriction but shall instead remain subject to Governor Ned Lamont's State prohibition on gatherings of 50 or more people, provided they employ reasonable and appropriate distancing measures.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that, all persons within the City of Bridgeport are to maintain a six (6) foot distance from one another, to the extent reasonably possible;

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that, all persons within the City of Bridgeport (including but not limited to, in or on, any City facility, property and parkland) are to maintain a six (6) foot distance from one another, to the extent reasonably possible;

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that, the City's parks have been, and are, officially closed to the public for all vehicular traffic, team sports and other group activities; but remain available for walking, jogging, bicycling and other similar type individual health and recreational activities only;

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that, unless ongoing use of the City's parks is limited to walking, jogging, bicycling and other similar type individual health and recreational activities only, then unfortunately I will be compelled to prohibit any and all access to the City's parks and order the appropriate authorities to strictly enforce the closure of all City parks to any public access whatsoever;

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that, this order shall remain in effect until April 30, 2020, (the" effective period") unless amended, extended or earlier terminated;

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that this order will be made publicly available for inspection and review during regular business hours (once resumed) in the City of Bridgeport's Office of the City Clerk; and shall be posted promptly now on the City of Bridgeport's website.



Joseph P. Ganim, Mayor
Chief Executive Officer, City of Bridgeport
Duly Authorized