

## **DECLARATION OF A DISASTER EMERGENCY FOR COVINGTON TOWNSHIP, PENNSYLVANIA**

**WHEREAS**, a respiratory disease named Coronavirus Disease 2019 and known by its abbreviated name COVID-19 ("COVID-19") spreads from person to person contact and from contact with contaminated surfaces or objects.

**WHEREAS**, the spread of COVID-19 spreads easily and sustainably in communities.

**WHEREAS**, on January 21, 2020 the spread of COVID-19 in the United States caused the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") to activate its Emergency Operations Center on January 31, 2020.

**WHEREAS**, on January 31, 2020 the spread of COVID-19 caused the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services ("HHS") Secretary to declare a public health emergency.

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19 has spread so quickly throughout the world that on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization ("WHO") declared COVID-19 a pandemic.

**WHEREAS**, the Governor's office of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania issued a Proclamation of Disaster Emergency on March 6, 2020 due to COVID-19 under the authority of 35 Pa C.S. § 7101, et seq. that authorized the suspension of certain procedures and formalities prescribed by law and urged counties in the Commonwealth to act as necessary to meet the current exigencies.

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020 President Donald J. Trump declared a national emergency pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 5121-5207 (the Stafford Act) due to the public health emergency created by the spread of COVID-19.

**WHEREAS**, on March 16, 2020 Lackawanna County has declared an emergency due to COVID-19.

**WHEREAS**, Section 7501 of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Services Act (35 PA CSA §7501) authorizes Covington Township to declare a disaster emergency upon the finding a disaster has occurred or is imminent.

**NOW THEREFORE**, we, the undersigned Board of Supervisors of Covington Township, pursuant to the provisions of §7501 of the Emergency Services Act do hereby declare the existence of a disaster emergency in Covington Township due to the worldwide spread of COVID-19, and the declaration of a pandemic by the World Health Organization, a national emergency by the President of the United States, the Declaration of Disaster Emergency by Governor of Pennsylvania, the Declaration of Disaster Emergency by Lackawanna County

Commissioners, the activation of Emergency Operations by the CDC and the declaration by HHS of a public health emergency.

**FURTHER**, the Board of Supervisors of Covington Township direct the Covington Township Emergency Management Director to coordinate Covington Township's emergency response, to work with all state and federal authorities, to take all appropriate action needed to alleviate the effects of this disaster, to aid in the restoration of public services.

**FURTHER**, the Board of Supervisors, pursuant to 35 Pa C.S. §7501(d), authorize the temporary suspension of all formal requirements in light of the exigencies of this disaster emergency, including all time-consuming procedures and formalities proscribed by law (excepting mandatory constitutional requirements) pertaining to the performance of public work, entering into contracts, the incurring of obligations, the employment of temporary workers, the rental of equipment, the purchase of supplies and materials, the levying of taxes and the appropriation and expenditure of public funds.

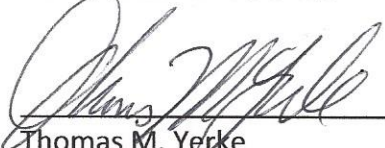
**FURTHER**, all Township residents, businesses, organizations and visitors are urged to abide during the period of the Emergency Declaration by the recommendations made by as well as guidance issued by the CDC, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the Pennsylvania Department of Health, and to refrain from all unnecessary travel, gatherings, and business so as to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 and, in turn, this public health emergency.

**AND FURTHERMORE**, this Declaration shall remain in effect until April 30, 2020 or until rescinded or extended.

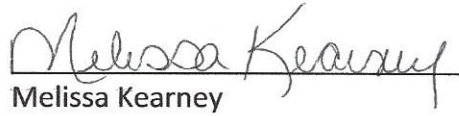
This Declaration shall take effect immediately.

Authorized this 19<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020.

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
TOWNSHIP OF COVINGTON  
LACKAWANNA COUNTY**

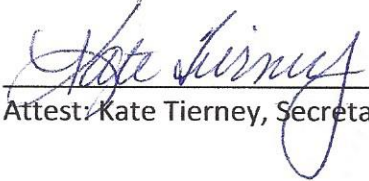
  
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Thomas M. Yerke  
Chairman

  
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William M. Fells

  
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Melissa Kearney

  
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John Brostoski  
Vice-Chairman

  
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Joseph J. Setta

  
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Attest: Kate Tierney, Secretary

