

## PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, as of March 14, 2020, the World Health Organization has confirmed 142,539 worldwide cases of the novel coronavirus ("COVID-19"), including 5,393 deaths;

WHEREAS, as of March 15, 2020, there are 3,324 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the United States, including 63 deaths;

WHEREAS, since March 3, 2020, the number of confirmed cases and deaths from COVID-19 in the United States has grown exponentially;

WHEREAS, the limited availability of COVID-19 testing in the United States has limited testing throughout West Virginia;

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a national emergency;

WHEREAS, all other states throughout the United States have confirmed COVID-19 cases, and, as of March 14, 2020, 39 states have declared a state of emergency;

WHEREAS, the Governor of West Virginia ordered all public and private schools closed throughout West Virginia through at least March 27, 2020, in order to keep all West Virginians as safe as possible;

WHEREAS, the City of Charleston has the opportunity to learn from the experiences of other cities across the world to help slow down or stop the spread of COVID-19 in our City and State; and

WHEREAS, I have continuously reviewed the situation, consulted with City Department Directors, Emergency Management Officials, Public Health Officials, and other state and local governmental officials in order to determine the need for this proclamation; NOW, THEREFORE:

I, AMY SHULER GOODWIN, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM, pursuant to the authority granted in West Virginia Code § 15-5-1, *et seq.*, and Charleston Municipal Code § 42-81, *et seq.*, that the spread of COVID-19 in the United States creates an existing and threatened state of emergency endangering the lives, safety, health and welfare of the people within the City of Charleston.

I hereby declare to all persons the existence of this state of emergency and, in order to more effectively protect the lives of people within the City, effective upon the signing of this proclamation, I will be exercising the authority granted to me in West Virginia Code § 15-5-1, *et seq.*, and Charleston Municipal Code § 42-81, *et seq.*, through the issuance of executive orders, emergency

policies, and through the use and direction of City personnel, services, and equipment, to perform acts necessary to the management of this existing and threatened state of emergency.

I further delegate to the City Manager and the City Director of Homeland Security and Emergency Management the same authority granted to me in West Virginia Code § 15-5-1, *et seq.*, and Charleston Municipal Code § 42-81, *et seq.*, to issue such emergency policies and direct City personnel, services, and equipment to perform acts necessary to the management of this existing and threatened state of emergency.

Pursuant to the authority granted to me in West Virginia Code § 15-5-1, *et seq.*, and Charleston Municipal Code § 42-81, *et seq.*, it shall be unlawful for any person to violate any provision of any restriction imposed by the executive orders or emergency policies issued under the authority of this proclamation.

Upon execution, this proclamation shall be filed with the City Clerk and a copy shall be sent to the Kanawha County Commission and the Governor of West Virginia. This proclamation and any executive order or emergency policy issued under the authority of this proclamation shall be available on the City of Charleston website.

This proclamation shall be in effect until I issue a subsequent proclamation rescinding the existing and threatened state of emergency.

DATED this 15th day of March, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Amy Shuler Goodwin", is written over a horizontal line.

Amy Shuler Goodwin, Mayor  
City of Charleston, West Virginia

CITY OF CHARLESTON  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

---



March 15, 2020

Dear Council Members:

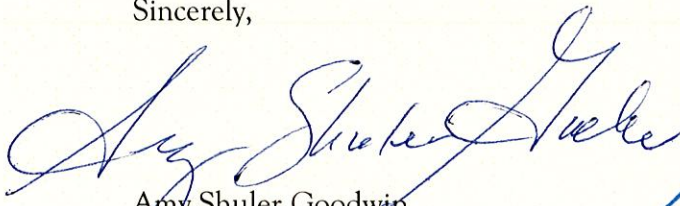
We know we are all deeply concerned about the threat COVID-19 poses to our City and nation. At this point, it is only a matter of time before we find ourselves face-to-face with this threat, and we must do everything reasonable to prepare ourselves and our citizens to lessen the worst of the disease's effects. To that end, an Emergency Proclamation has been issued for the City of Charleston so that the Administration may efficiently and effectively address and mitigate the spread of this odious virus.

In an effort to facilitate effective social distancing measures to protect Council Members, City Staff, and the public, the March 16, 2020, meeting of the City Council will occur electronically. We are working closely with the City Clerk's Office and the Director of Information Systems to ensure that Council Members may participate by conference call and that members of the public may listen in through live streaming. We will share details with Council Members once they are fully worked out. Council President Becky Ceperley is sponsoring a resolution to amend the Rules of Council to better address electronic meetings of Council during emergency situations.

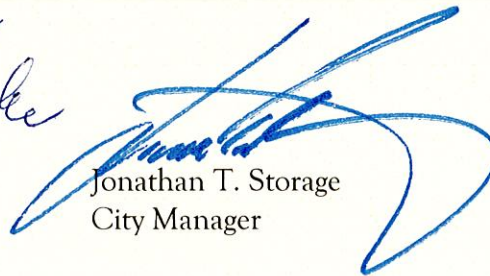
We are encouraging all Committee Chairs to temporarily suspend committee meetings that do not address essential City business. If committee meetings must occur, we request that the meetings be held electronically and streamed over the internet through the City's Civic Clerk website or the City's Facebook page for public observation.

We hope you will continue to support our Administration as we all do our part to slow the spread of COVID-19.

Sincerely,



Amy Shuler Goodwin  
Mayor of Charleston



Jonathan T. Storage  
City Manager

Attachment: Proclamation