PROCLAMATION DECLARING STATE OF EMERGENCY IN TOWN OF CHAPEL HILL, NORTH CAROLINA

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death, and is a new strain of coronavirus previously unidentified in humans that can spread from person to person; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a Public Health Emergency of International Concern on January 30, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") has warned of the high public health threat posed by COVID-19 globally and in the United States and has deemed it necessary to prohibit or restrict travel to areas designated by the CDC; and

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Health and Human Services Secretary declared a public health emergency in the United States for COVID-19 under Section 319 of the Public Health Service Act; and

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, after the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services ("NCDHHS") confirmed multiple cases of COVID-19 in North Carolina, Governor Roy Cooper declared a State of Emergency for the State of North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, the occurrence of a time of public emergency is imminent due to the public health threat posed by COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the potential of a substantial risk of injury or death for people exposed to COVID-19 is imminent; and

WHEREAS, the State has determined that it is necessary and appropriate to act to ensure that COVID-19 remains controlled and that residents and visitors in North Carolina remain safe and secure; and

WHEREAS, the State has ordered all local government agencies to cooperate in the implementation of the provisions of the State of Emergency issued on March 10, 2020 and the provisions of the corresponding North Carolina Emergency Operations Plan; and

WHEREAS, this public health threat requires the Town to act to protect residents and visitors of Chapel Hill.

WHEREAS, pursuant to the aforementioned statute the Council has enacted Article V., Chapter 11, of the Town Code entitled "State of Emergency, Curfew" authorizing and empowering the Mayor to issue a public proclamation declaring the existence of a state of emergency and take action in order to more effectively protect the lives and property of people within the Town.
NOW, THEREFORE, I, Michael Parker, Mayor Pro Tem of the Town of Chapel Hill, North Carolina, acting pursuant to my authority under Section 3.7 of the Town Charter, in the absence of the Mayor from the Town, do hereby proclaim the existence of a STATE OF EMERGENCY within the Town of Chapel Hill and, pursuant to the authority granted to me by State law and Town ordinance, hereby ORDER as follows:

1. All Town Departments and personnel are ordered to cooperate in the implementation of this declaration, the State’s Declaration and the provisions of any emergency operations plan issued by and through the Town.

2. The Town Manager, or his designee, is hereby granted all authority and power granted to me by Article V., Chapter 11, of the Town Code for the purpose of implementing the Town’s emergency response plan and deploying personnel to take the appropriate actions necessary to promote and secure the safety and welfare of the residents within the Town of Chapel Hill.

3. The Town Manager, or his designee, is further authorized to restrict other activities or impose other conditions that may be reasonably necessary to maintain order and protect lives or property during the State of Emergency.

4. The Town Manager, or his designee, and the Town’s Emergency Management Coordinator are hereby ordered to take all necessary measures to implement and cooperate with the State’s Declaration of Emergency and the provisions of the State’s Emergency Operations Plan and to cooperate with other local governmental agencies declaring a State of Emergency.

5. I further direct the Town Manager and the Town’s Emergency Management Coordinator to seek assistance from any and all agencies of the State of North Carolina as may be needed to address the emergency and maintain the safety of the residents of the Town of Chapel Hill and to seek reimbursement for costs incurred by the Town of Chapel Hill in responding to this emergency.

6. The Town Manager is further directed to: (a) distribute this declaration to the news media and other organizations calculated to bring its contents to the attention of the general public; (b) file this declaration with the Town Clerk; and (c) distribute the declaration as necessary to ensure its full implementation.

Nothing in this Proclamation shall be construed to restrict or prevent the movement or operation of law enforcement officers, firefighters and other public employees, doctors, nurses, employees of hospitals and other medical facilities, on-duty military personnel, on-duty employees of public agencies, representatives of the news media and such other classes or persons as the Town Manager, Chief of Police, Emergency Management Coordinator, or their designees, determines are essential to the preservation of public order and immediately necessary to serve the safety, health, and welfare needs of the people within the Town.
This Proclamation shall be effective March 13, 2020, at 3:00 PM (Eastern Daylight Time) and remain in effect until properly rescinded or modified by subsequent Proclamation.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF THE TOWN OF CHAPEL HILL

ON THIS THE 13 DAY OF

March, 2020,

at 3:00 AM/PM

Michael Parker
MAYOR PRO TEM

Sabrina Oliver
TOWN CLERK
Town Seal: