

DECLARATION OF LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY

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 reached worldwide, as of 9:40 PM March 16, 2020 more than 182,598 confirmed cases and more than 7,171 deaths impacting 118 countries; 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, the World Health Organization (WHO) 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, as of March 16, 2020 and relatively new to the United States, the US had confirmed cases exceeding 4,704 (*growing*), deaths exceeding 91 (*growing*) and affected states 49 (*all except West Virginia*); 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 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 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 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, it is vitally important that local chief executive officer have 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, 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 29 confirmed cases in Fairfield County (*growing*); 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.

WHEREAS, the Charter of the City of Bridgeport, Chapter 3, Section 1, charges the Mayor with “the duty...to recommend the adoption of all such measures connected with police, fire, and public safety, public health and social services...” ; and provides that the 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 Unites States or by the ordinances of the city of Bridgeport”.

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 even 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).

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, hereby finds that a local state of emergency now exists in the City of Bridgeport; and

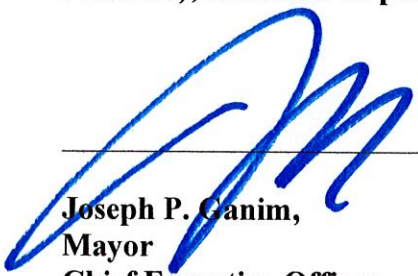
WHEREAS, Connecticut General Statutes, Section 28-8a provides that the “chief executive officer of the municipality in which a major disaster or emergency occurs, or his designee, may take such action as he deems necessary to mitigate the major disaster or emergency and to secure and preserve any documents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

NOW THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY DECLARED, PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED, by the Mayor of the City of Bridgeport, Connecticut pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes (including but not limited to Sections 28-1 and 28-8a), Bridgeport City Charter (including but not limited to Chapter 3, Section 1), Bridgeport Code of Ordinances (including but not limited to Sections 10.28.030 and 2.02.070) that a state of local emergency exists in the City of Bridgeport.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED, PROCALIMED AND ORDERED, that during the existence of said emergency, Mayor Ganim as Chief Executive Officer of the City of Bridgeport , Connecticut, shall assume and engage all the rightful powers, functions and duties prescribed and provided by law, and may take such action as necessary to protect the public health and safety and to mitigate the COVID-19 emergency; and

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED, PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED, that this state of local emergency shall remain in effect until declared terminated; and

IT IS FURTHER DECLARED, PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that this Declaration of Local State of Emergency shall be made available for review and inspection in the Office of the City Clerk of the City of Bridgeport, Connecticut during regular business hours (once resumed); and shall be posted promptly on the City’s website.



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