To all citizens and persons within the Township of Bernards in the County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, and to all departments, divisions, bureaus, and sections thereof.

WHEREAS, pursuant to the powers delegated to the Township of Bernards pursuant to Chapter 251 of the laws of 1942, as amended and supplemented, N.J.S.A. App. A:9-30 et seq., N.J.S.A. 40:48-1(6) et seq., N.J.S.A. 2C:33-1 et seq., whichever law or laws apply, and by the ordinances adopted by the Township of Bernards, and to ensure the protection of the health and safety of the residents thereof and for the protection of the resource of said municipality, we hereby declare that a local emergency exists within the jurisdiction of the Township of Bernards; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. App. A:9-33.1(1) defines “emergency” as “any unusual incident resulting from natural or unnatural causes which endangers the health, safety or resources of the residents of one or more municipalities of the State, and which is or may become too large in scope or unusual in type to be handled in its entirety by regular municipal operating services;”

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. App. A:9-40.5 permits the municipal emergency management coordinator, pursuant to the aforementioned authority, to promulgate such orders, rules, and regulations as are necessary to meet the various problems which have or may be presented by such an emergency; and

WHEREAS, by reason of onset of COVID-19, and the need to take proactive mitigation measures to prevent the dispersion thereof, the need for government operations to address the potential spread of said virus which may further adversely affect the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of the Township of Bernards presently exists; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that a state of emergency shall be declared within the boundaries of the Township of Bernards pursuant to the authority and under the provisions of N.J.S.A. App. A:9-30 et seq., with said authority and provisions incorporated herein by reference and to be effective within the entirety of the aforementioned municipality; and

WHEREAS, it has further been determined that such a declaration, and dissemination of the information related to operational changes of the Township in Bernards in response to the aforementioned emergency, are necessary for the orderly and transparent administration of Bernards Township’s municipal government;

THEREFORE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH the aforementioned laws and such other statutes, regulations, ordinances, and other sources of law as may be relevant and applicable, it is hereby promulgated and declared that the following regulations shall be in addition to all other laws of the State of New Jersey, the County of Somerset, and the Township of Bernards, and shall complement and supplement any other regulations issued by any federal, state, or local authority of competent jurisdiction:

1) The Township of Bernards, and each department, division, bureau or section thereof, shall continue normal operations with the emergency modifications as herein mandated.

2) The Municipal Offices of the Township of Bernards shall operate on a staff-only basis and shall be closed to the general public. Those seeking to conduct business with the Township are encouraged to communicate with either the Township Administration or the relevant department of municipal government for guidance on how to proceed. Each department will continue its operations to serve the needs of Township residents and will be available by phone and email.
3) Until further notice, all building inspections under the jurisdiction of the Department of Municipal Services shall generally be limited to exterior inspections, vacant building inspections, inspections for properties presently under construction, and inspections for pending or anticipated real estate transactions, with all such inspections to be conducted at the absolute discretion of the Construction Official or his designee.

4) Until further notice, all health inspections shall be limited to registered complaints pursuant the Health Officer’s statutory and regulatory authority.

5) All parks will remain open however all playgrounds, water fountains and bathroom facilities will remain closed. All fields will also be closed.

6) The Municipal Court sessions scheduled for March 26 and April 2 are cancelled.

7) Any time deadlines by which the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Adjustment are required to act pursuant to the Municipal Land Use Law are hereby extended an additional 60 days.

8) The Mayor is authorized to grant temporary deviations or variances from the Township’s General and Land Development Ordinances where emergent circumstances for the benefit of the public health, safety and welfare so require.

9) The Township Clerk is permitted to deny for a period of 60 days any applications for solicitation permits that involve door to door canvassing of residents as such canvassing violates social distancing guidelines.

IN FURTHER ACCORDANCE THEREWITH, these restrictions shall take effect at 5:00 PM EST on March 24, 2020 and shall remained in effect, in whole or in part, until such time as this state of emergency is rescinded pursuant to N.J.S.A. App. A:9-30 et seq.; and

IN FURTHER ACCORDANCE THEREWITH, the Township of Bernards hereby reserves the right to amend the foregoing by further declaration consistent with N.J.S.A. App. A:9-30 et seq.

James Baldassare Jr.
Mayor

Lt. Christopher Hurst
Emergency Management Coordinator

Date: 3/24/2020

Time: 11:35 AM