Office of the Mayor
City of Richmond Heights, Ohio

EXECUTIVE ORDER

By David H. Roche, Mayor

Declaration of State of Emergency
City of Richmond Heights, Ohio

WHEREAS, the City of Richmond Heights has been or is immediately directly affected by the coronavirus/COVID-19 outbreak, and it is necessary to protect the citizens of Richmond Heights, its public safety forces and medical personnel; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death, is caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which is a new strain of coronavirus that had not been previously identified in humans and can easily spread from person to person. The virus is spread between individuals who are in close contact with each other (within about six feet) through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. It may be possible that individuals can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose or eyes; and,

WHEREAS, on January 30, 2020, the International Health Regulations Emergency Committee of the World Health Organization declared the outbreak of COVID-19 a public health emergency of international concern; and

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, Health and Human Services Secretary, Alex M. Azar II, declared a public health emergency for the United States in relation to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS on February 1, 2020, the Ohio Department of Health issued a statewide Health Alert Network to provide local health departments with updated guidance with respect to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2020, testing by the Department of Health confirmed that three (3) patients were positive for COVID-19 in the State of Ohio, creating a potentially dangerous condition which may affect the health, safety and welfare of citizens of Ohio; and

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2020, Governor Mike DeWine signed an Executive Order declaring a State of Emergency for the entire State of Ohio in relation to COVID-19 pursuant to the Governor’s authority vested in him by the Constitution, the laws of the State of Ohio and in accordance with Revised Code Section 5502.22; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, President Donald J. Trump declared a national emergency, invoking the Stafford Act and allowing the Federal Emergency Management Agency to coordinate disaster response and aid state and local governments in addressing the COVID-19
pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine has announced the closing of all schools, kindergarten through grade 12, through May 1, 2020, has restricted the sales of alcohol, food and all other beverages to carry-out sales and delivery only, and has issued guidance limiting mass gatherings of people; and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, Amy Acton, MD, MPH, the Director of the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) issued an order closing all polling locations on March 17, 2020, the date of the Primary Election in the state of Ohio; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has advised those that have possible or confirmed COVID-19 to stay home from work, school, and away from other public places; and

WHEREAS, on March 22, 2020, the Director of the ODH issued a Stay at Home Order requiring all Ohio citizens to stay at home except to perform essential functions, prohibiting social gatherings of over ten (10) people and ordering all non-essential businesses and operations to cease; and,

WHEREAS, on March 31, 2020, President Donald J. Trump declared that a major disaster exists in the State of Ohio and ordered Federal assistance to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the areas affected by the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic beginning on January 20, 2020, and continuing; and Federal funding is now available to State and eligible local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations for emergency protective measures, including direct Federal assistance, for all areas in the State of Ohio impacted by COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the people of the City of Richmond Heights have been directly affected in their daily lives because of the threat of COVID-19, the need for social distancing, working from home, business closings, caring for school-aged children during school hours, and the impairment to the functioning of City government and its ability to protect the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Richmond Heights, Ohio,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, David H. Roche, Mayor and Director of Public Safety of the City of Richmond Heights, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Ohio Constitution, the Charter of the City of Richmond Heights, and the Codified Ordinances of the City of Richmond Heights, do hereby order and direct that:

1. A State of Emergency exists in the City of Richmond Heights and I hereby invoke and declare those portions of the Ohio Revised Code which are applicable to the conditions that have caused the issuance of this Declaration, to be in full force and effect in the City for the exercise of all necessary Emergency Authority to protection of lives and property of the people of Richmond Heights and all people who work in, attend school, and otherwise visit the City and to maintain the local government with a minimum of interruption.
2. Pursuant to Paragraph 10 of the State Health Director's Stay at Home Order, all current public officials, officers, employees, and contractors of the City of Richmond Heights are hereby identified as necessary to the performance of governmental functions to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public, and are directed to exercise the utmost diligence in the discharge of duties required from them for the duration of the emergency and in the execution of emergency laws, regulations, and directives – federal, state and local; and their functions, as public officers, employees, and contractors, including, but not limited to, R. Todd Hunt, Director of Law; Walter Haverfield LLP; Michael E. Cicero, Prosecutor; Nicola, Gudbranson & Cooper LLC; Lee Courtney, P.E., City Engineer; and The C.W. Courtney Company are hereby declared Essential Governmental Functions.

3. Pursuant to Section 3105, “Special Rule for Health Care Providers and Emergency Responders,” of the federal Families First Coronavirus Response Act, I declare that the City of Richmond Heights elects to exclude all of its employees as its “Emergency Responders” from the provisions of Section 3102 of that Act.

4. All citizens are called upon and directed to comply with necessary emergency measures, to cooperate with public officials and emergency services forces in executing emergency operations plans, and to obey and comply with the lawful directions of properly identified officers and employees, including but not limited to Cuyahoga County Board of Health officials and State of Ohio Department of Health officials.

5. I hereby order the City's Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals and Architectural Review Board to comply with the provisions of House Bill 197, passed by the Ohio State Legislature on March 25, 2020, and signed into law on March 27, 2020, with respect to public hearings when conducting quasi-judicial administrative hearings.

6. I hereby order all City of Richmond Heights government buildings, including the Kiwanis Lodge and the buildings at Greenwood Farm, to be closed to the general public for the duration of the emergency.

7. This Declaration shall be broadly interpreted to make the City, its employees, contractors, schools, citizens, and businesses eligible for all assistance, funding, grants, loans, discounts or any other type of relief or benefit related to COVID-19 pandemic from any federal, state, or local governments, or from any private company, organization, or citizen offering such relief or benefits.
THEREFORE, I have signed this Executive Order of Declaration of State of Emergency this 24th day of April, 2020, in Richmond Heights, Ohio, and it shall take effect immediately and remain in full force and effect until the current statewide emergency no longer exists, such time to be determined by the Governor of the State of Ohio.

[Signature]
David H. Roche, Mayor
City of Richmond Heights, Ohio

[Signature]
Date
4/2/2020