

## **DECLARATION OF DISASTER EMERGENCY BOROUGH OF TOPTON, BERKS COUNTY**

WHEREAS, a novel coronavirus (now known as “COVID-19”) emerged in Wuhan, China, began infecting humans in December 2019, and has since spread to eighty-nine (89) countries, including the United States; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) have declared COVID-19 a “public health emergency of international concern,” and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (“HHS”) Secretary has declared that COVID-19 creates a public health emergency; and

WHEREAS, Donald J. Trump, President of the United States, by authority of the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including Sections 201 and 301 of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601, et seq.) and consistent with Section 1135 of the Social Security Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 1320b-5), declared that the COVID-19 outbreak in the United States constitutes a national emergency, beginning March 1, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Thomas W. Wolf, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (“Commonwealth”), pursuant to the provisions of Subsection 730(c) of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Services Code, 35 Pa. C.S. § 7101, et seq., proclaimed the existence of a disaster emergency throughout the Commonwealth on March 6, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth, in collaboration with the CDC, HHS and local health agencies to monitor and plan for the containment and subsequent mitigation of COVID-19, activated its Department Operations Center and the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency’s headquarters to conduct public health and medical coordination for COVID-19 throughout the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2020 the Director of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency ordered the activation of its Commonwealth Response Coordination Center in support of the Department of Health’s Department Operations Center, to maintain situational awareness and coordinate the response to any potential COVID-19 impacts across the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, the number of confirmed positive cases of COVID-19 continue to climb in the Commonwealth and in Berks County specifically; and

WHEREAS, while it is anticipated that a high percentage of those affected by COVID-19 will experience mild influenza-like symptoms, COVID-19 is a disease capable of causing severe symptoms or loss of life, particularly to older populations and those individuals with pre-existing conditions; and

WHEREAS, the possible increased threat from COVID-19 constitutes a threat of imminent disaster to the health of the citizens of the Borough; and

WHEREAS, this threat of imminent disaster and emergency has the potential to cause significant adverse impacts upon the population throughout the Borough; and

WHEREAS, this threat of imminent disaster and emergency has already caused schools, including but not limited to Brandywine Area School District, as well as all non-life-sustaining businesses to close

and will likely prompt additional local measures, including the declaration by other local municipal governments to declare local disaster emergencies because of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, it is critical to prepare for and to be ready to respond to cases of COVID-19 in the Borough of Tipton, Berks County, Pennsylvania by implementing measures to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and to permit the Borough to be eligible for any and all federal, state and county disaster emergency funds that may become available; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, the undersigned Mayor of the Borough of Tipton, pursuant to the provisions of Section 7501 of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Services Code, (35 PA C.S., Section 7501), as amended, do hereby declare the existence of a disaster emergency in the Borough of Tipton.

FURTHER, I direct the Borough of Tipton Emergency Management Coordinator and Assistant Coordinator to coordinate the activities of the emergency response, to take all appropriate action needed to alleviate the effects of this disaster, to aid in the restoration of essential public services, and to take any other emergency response action deemed necessary to respond to this emergency.

STILL FURTHER, I authorize officials of the Borough of Tipton to act as necessary to meet the current exigencies of this emergency, namely: by the employment of temporary workers, by the rental of equipment, by the purchase of supplies and materials, and by entering into such contracts and agreements for the performance of public work as may be required to meet the emergency, all without regard to those time-consuming procedures and formalities normally prescribed by law, mandatory constitutional requirements excepted.

This Declaration is authorized on this 10th day of February 2021 and shall be effective immediately.

**BOROUGH OF TOPTON MAYOR**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "The Biltcliff III". The signature is stylized and includes a flourish at the end.

Thomas A Biltcliff III, Mayor