

Town of Williamston

Office of the Mayor



DECLARATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY

Originally Effective: March 18, 2020

Amended: Thursday, April 2, 2020

New Information is shown in red

WHEREAS, the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (“COVID-19”) is a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which 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 pandemic, pointing to the over 118,000 cases of the coronavirus illness in 110 countries and territories around the world and the sustained risk of further global spread on March 11, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Center 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, the NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) confirmed multiple cases of COVID-19 in North Carolina as of March 10, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, the State of North Carolina, through the Office of the Governor, Roy Cooper, issued Executive Order No. 116 titled, “Declaration of a State of Emergency to Coordinate Response and Protective Actions to Prevent the spread of COVID-19”; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a national emergency that the COVID-19 outbreak in the United States constitutes a national emergency beginning March 1, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on March 14, 2020, the Governor of North Carolina issued Executive Order No. 117 that prohibits public gatherings of more than 100 people; closes public schools until March 30, 2020; and encourages social distancing whenever possible; and

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2020, the Governor of North Carolina issued Executive Order No. 118 that restaurants are restricted to carry-out, drive-through, delivery, and onsite consumption in outdoor seating areas, subject to mass gathering restrictions to create an environment where

staff and patrons maintain social distancing (at least 6 feet from other people) whenever possible. Bars are directed to close.

WHEREAS, on March 21, 2020, the Governor of North Carolina issued Executive Order No. 119, which delegates authority to the Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services ("NCDHHS") to waive the effect or enforcement of certain regulations for child care and extended time periods and accreditation scheduling for public health nurses; and

WHEREAS, on March 23, 2020, the Governor of North Carolina issued Executive Order No. 120, which extends the in-person closure of the public K-12 schools in North Carolina until May 15; and

WHEREAS, on March 27, 2020, the Governor of North Carolina issued Executive Order No. 121, which orders North Carolinians to remain in their homes except for performing essential work and essential activities such as taking care of others, obtaining necessary supplies, and for health and safety purposes; and

WHEREAS, on March 30, 2020, the Governor of North Carolina issued Executive Order No. 122, which help schools and local governments access state surplus property to help bridge gaps during the response to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 31, 2020, the Governor of North Carolina issued Executive Order No. 123, which amends Executive Order No. 40 by extending the North Carolina Early Childhood Advisory Council, and No. 124, which prohibits utilities - including electric, gas, water and wastewater services - from disconnecting people who are unable to pay during this pandemic and prohibits them from collecting fees, penalties or interest for late payment; and

WHEREAS, in consultation with health care professionals and based upon guidance from the CDC and NCDHHS, arrangements must be made immediately to take such actions as are deemed necessary and appropriate to ensure that COVID-19 remains controlled and that residents and visitors in Williamston remain safe and secure;

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority vested in me as the Mayor of the Town of Williamston, under Article 1A of Chapter 166A of the North Carolina General Statutes and Chapter 37 Section 37.02(B) of the Town of Williamston Code of Ordinances, I, Joyce Whichard-Brown, do hereby proclaim that a State of Emergency exists within the Town of Williamston, NC:

Section 1. A State of Emergency is hereby declared within the jurisdictions of Town of Williamston.

Section 2. The emergency area covered by this State of Emergency shall be the entire jurisdiction of the Town of Williamston.

Section 3. The Emergency Management Plan, adopted by the Town of Williamston Board of Commissioners, and all applicable mutual assistance compacts and agreements are in effect and shall remain in effect until this declaration expires or is rescinded.

Town of Williamston

Office of the Mayor

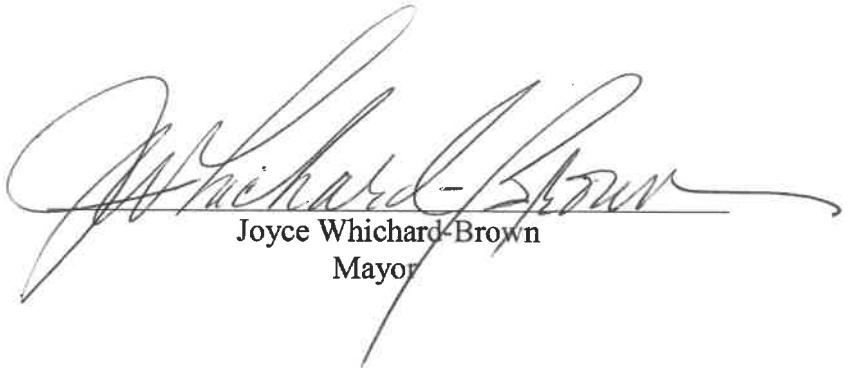


Section 4. I hereby order all Town of Williamston personnel to cooperate in the implementation of the provisions of the Town's Emergency Management Plan and all applicable mutual assistance compacts and agreements, and to furnish assistance thereunder.

Section 5. I hereby order this declaration: (a) to be made available to the news media and other organizations calculated to bring its contents to the attention of the general public; (b) to be filed with Clerk to the Town of Williamston Board of Commissioners, and (c) to be distributed to others as necessary to ensure proper implementation of this declaration.

Section 6. In compliance with Governor Cooper's Executive Order No. 124, I hereby suspend the utility cut-offs due to non-payment for water provided by the Town of Williamston and accrual of late fees and penalties for the duration of this State of Emergency.

Section 6-7. This declaration shall take effect, and shall remain in effect until modified or rescinded. Declared this the 18th day of March 2020, at 12:00pm. This declaration is hereby amended as indicated herein on April 2, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.



Joyce Whichard-Brown
Mayor

ATTEST:



Christina Craft, Town Clerk