

E.O. 20-01

March 13, 2020

**Town of Morristown, New Jersey
EXECUTIVE ORDER # 20-01**

**AN EXECUTIVE ORDER OF THE MAYOR OF THE TOWN OF MORRISTOWN
CONCERNING PUBLIC GATHERINGS DURING THE
CURRENT PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY**

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Mayor of the Town of Morristown by law, I hereby issue this Executive Order. This Order shall take effect immediately. It shall be kept on file in the Office of the Town Clerk and Business Administrator and will be made available upon request. It shall also be posted on the Town's website.

WHEREAS, Coronavirus ("COVID-19") is a contagious, and sometimes fatal, respiratory disease; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is responsible for the 2019 novel coronavirus outbreak, which was first identified in Wuhan, the People's Republic of China in December 2019 and quickly spread to other countries; and

WHEREAS, symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, cough, and shortness of breath, which can develop in as few as two or as long as 14 days after exposure, and can be passed from person to person when an infected person coughs or sneezes; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the Coronavirus COVID – 19 outbreak a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Health and Human Services Secretary declared a public health emergency for the United States to aid the nation's healthcare community in responding to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, as of March 13, 2020, there were 32 presumed positive cases of COVID-19 in New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the CDC expects that additional cases of COVID-19 will be identified in the future; and

WHEREAS, in an attempt to protect the public health and to slow the rate of transmission of COVID-19 it is recommended that people implement “social distancing” measures and not gather in large groups; and

WHEREAS, Governor Phil Murphy has recommended cancellation of all public gatherings of more than 250 individuals; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Morristown is home to many restaurants and bars which attract large gatherings of people; and

WHEREAS, these establishments experience a greater influx of patrons during the night hours; and

WHEREAS, this greater influx of patrons along with the consumption of alcohol can lead to an uncontrolled environment; and

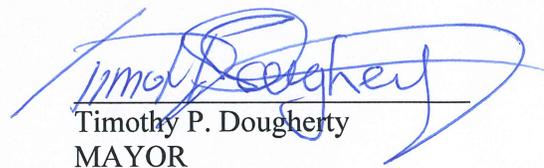
WHEREAS, such a situation can cause a strain on the Town’s emergency response resources and is likely to contribute to the spread of COVID-19 based on the close contact of the large groups of individuals in these establishments; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to avoid or minimize an outbreak of COVID-19 within the Town, the Town of Morristown believes it is necessary to implement precautionary measures to limit uncontrolled environments and large gatherings of people;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TIMOTHY DOUGHERTY, Mayor of the Town of Morristown, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the New Jersey State Constitution and the Statutes of the State of New Jersey, do hereby **ORDER AND DIRECT** that effective immediately:

1. All venues located within the Town of Morristown that are licensed to sell liquor are required to close by 10:00 p.m. each day until further notice.
2. Additionally, no establishment within the Town of Morristown shall at one time have a gathering of more than two hundred and fifty (250) people until further notice.
3. This Executive Order shall be effective immediately and shall remain in effect until rescinded by the Mayor.

If any provision of this Executive Order, or the application of any such provision to any person or circumstances, shall be held invalid or unenforceable for any reason, the remainder of this Executive Order to the extent it can be given effect, or the application of such provision to persons or circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid or unenforceable shall not be affected thereby, and to this extent the provision of this Executive Order are severable.


Timothy P. Dougherty
MAYOR

cc: Margot Kaye, Town Clerk
Jillian Barrick, Business Administrator
Vijayant Pawar, Director of Law