EXECUTIVE ORDER # 20-02

Town of Morristown, New Jersey

AN EXECUTIVE ORDER OF THE MAYOR OF THE TOWN OF MORRISTOWN
SUPERSEDING THE PRIOR EXECUTIVE ORDER 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. 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 passed from person to person when an infected person coughs or sneezes; 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 15, 2020, there are 98 presumed positive cases of COVID-19 in New Jersey, including one in the Town of Morristown; 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, the Town of Morristown is the County Seat for the County of Morris and is home to Morristown Medical Center; and

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

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

WHEREAS, the health and safety of the residents of the Town of Morristown is most important; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to protect the health and safety of residents, visitors, and first responders within the Town, the Town of Morristown believes it is necessary to implement certain measures to limit large gatherings of people;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TIMOTHY P. 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:

1. All retail food establishments, with and without a liquor license, within the Town of Morristown shall be prohibited from serving food or alcohol within the retail food establishment. Any retail food establishment that currently offers food shall be permitted to conduct food takeout and food delivery service only. The restriction on the service of food or alcohol shall not apply to any public or private school, healthcare facility or daycare facility.

2. All retail food establishments with a liquor license shall no longer be permitted to sell, dispense or distribute alcoholic beverages.

3. This Executive Order shall be effective as of 12:00 p.m. on March 16, 2020 and shall remain in effect until further notice.

4. This Executive Order shall take effect as set forth herein and supersedes all inconsistent Executive Orders.

5. 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.

Violators may be subject to fines and penalties. It is necessary for all to aggressively mitigate the potential for exposure and the further spread of this disease.

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

Timothy P. Dougherty
MAYOR