

# STROUD AREA REGIONAL POLICE COMMISSION

## DECLARATION OF DISASTER EMERGENCY

**WHEREAS**, a novel Coronavirus (now known as “COVID-19”) emerged in Wuhan, China, began infecting humans in December of 2019; and

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19 has since spread to 170 countries including the United States and 22,020 people have died as of March 26, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, as of March 26, 2020, the United States has 69,219 cases of COVID-19 and is rapidly approaching as the Country with the most COVID-19 cases; and

**WHEREAS**, as of March 26, 2020, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has 1,127 cases of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, as of March 26, 2020, Monroe County, Pennsylvania has 51 cases of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, the World Health Organization and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) have declared COVID-19 a “Public health emergency of international concern”; and

**WHEREAS**, commencing on March 11, 2020, the President of the United States declared that the COVID-19 outbreak in the United States constitutes a national emergency; and

**WHEREAS**, commencing on March 6, 2020, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (“Commonwealth”), pursuant to the provisions of Subsection 7301(c) of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Services Code, 35 Pa.C.S. Section 7101, *et seq.*, declared the existence of a disaster emergency throughout the Commonwealth as a result of the spread of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, the Federal, State, and local health agencies have developed and are continuing to develop plans to monitor, contain, and mitigate 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 ("PEMA") ordered the activation of its Commonwealth Response Coordination Center to maintain situational awareness and coordinate the response to any potential COVID-19 impacts across the Commonwealth; and

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

**WHEREAS**, the Stroud Area Regional Police Commission is governed by an Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement Establishing Regional Police Department, dated May 24, 1999, which provided for the formation of a regional police department known as the Stroud Area Regional Police Department (the "Department"), under the direction and control of a joint board known as the Stroud Area Regional Police Commission ("SARPC" or "Commission") between the Boroughs of East Stroudsburg, Stroudsburg and the Township of Stroud ("Owner Municipalities"), and which has been amended seven (7) times; and

**WHEREAS**, the Boroughs of East Stroudsburg, Stroudsburg and the Township of Stroud comprise the Stroud Area Regional Police Department Service Area ("SARPD Service Area"); and

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

**WHEREAS**, this threat of imminent disaster and emergency has the potential to cause significant adverse impacts upon the population throughout Monroe County and the SARPD Service Area; and

**WHEREAS**, this threat of imminent disaster and emergency has already caused Monroe County schools and the East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania to close; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commission's owner municipalities have each issued Declarations of Disaster Emergency governing their respective municipalities in response to the COVID-19 threat, to wit: the Boroughs of East Stroudsburg and Stroudsburg on March 17, 2020; and the Township of Stroud on March 20, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 23, 2020, the Governor of the Commonwealth issued an Order requiring Monroe County and six other Counties in the Commonwealth to require all of its citizens to "stay-at-home" under threat of criminal sanctions; and

**WHEREAS**, it is critical to prepare for and to be ready to respond to cases of COVID-19 in the SARPD Service Area by implementing measures to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and to permit the Department to be eligible for any and all Federal, State, and County disaster emergency funds that may become available; and

**WHEREAS**, the threat of imminent disaster and emergency in the Commonwealth, the County of Monroe, and in SARPD Service Area is of such magnitude and severity as to require the activation of the Department's Emergency Response Plan and any and all other applicable Department emergency management plans.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, pursuant to the provisions of Subsection 7501(b) of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Services Code, 35 Pa.C.S. Section 7101, *et seq.*, as amended, the Commission Members of the Stroud Area Regional Police Commission do hereby declare a Local Disaster Emergency effectively immediately for the period of March 27, 2020 through 11:59 p.m. on May 13, 2020, unless further modified, extended, or terminated by action of the Commission, and who further declares that:

1. The Chief of Police, or her designee, in consultation with the Chair or Vice Chair, in the absence of the Chair of the Commission, (the "SARPD Chief") is authorized, for the period of this Declaration, which period of time may be extended by resolution or act of Commission Members of the Stroud Area Regional Police Commission, to command and control of all the Department's emergency operations and authorize and direct that the Department utilize all available resources

and personnel as is deemed necessary by the SARPD Chief from time to time to cope with this emergency situation, for such length of time as may be necessary to respond to this emergency situation, in order to activate the response and recovery aspects of the Department's Emergency Response Plan and any and all other applicable local emergency management plans and to authorize the furnishing of aid and assistance thereunder.

2. The SARPD Chief is authorized to utilize any unused or undesignated funds as may be approved by the Commission Members of the Stroud Area Regional Police Commission from time to time during this emergency situation for Emergency Management Assistance expenses related to this emergency, as conditions require. The aforementioned funds shall be used for expenses authorized by the Commission Members of the Stroud Area Regional Police Commission and incurred related to this emergency. The Commission Members of the Stroud Area Regional Police Commission may further direct that any funds transferred herein that remain unused after all costs related to this emergency have been satisfied shall be returned to the Department's general fund. This Declaration shall serve as the written determination of the basis for such emergency.

3. The SARPD Chief is hereby authorized to suspend all or any provisions of any resolution, policy, rule, or regulation if strict compliance with the provisions thereof would in any way prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in coping with this emergency. The SARPD Chief may implement emergency assignments without regard to procedures required by other Department resolutions, policies, rules, or regulations, except mandatory constitutional requirements, pertaining to performance of public work, incurring of obligations, employment of temporary workers, rental of equipment, purchase of supplies and materials, and expenditures of the Department's public funds, as may be necessary to meet this emergency, all without regard to those time consuming procedures and formalities normally prescribed by law, mandatory constitutional requirements excepted.

4. The SARPD Chief is hereby authorized to use all available Department resources and personnel in whatever manner the SARPD Chief reasonably deems necessary during this

emergency to assist in addressing the consequences of this emergency for such length of time as may be necessary to respond to this emergency and as authorized by this Declaration as may be extended by the Commission Members of the Stroud Area Regional Police Commission.

5. The Department's Emergency Response Plan and any and all other applicable Department emergency management plans be activated and that any and all actions be taken as may be necessary to implement such plans including, but not limited to, closing Department Headquarters, reallocation of currently assigned sworn and non-sworn personnel, and negotiate with the Union for temporary non-precedential changes to the Collective Bargaining Agreement in order to effectuate appropriate, quick, and decisive responses to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

6. The following actions taken by the SARPD Chief in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic are adopted and, where necessary, ratified as actions of the Commission Members of the Stroud Area Regional Police Commission:

a. The Department Headquarters was CLOSED to the public on March 18, 2020 and shall remain CLOSED during the pendency of this Declaration of Disaster Emergency and any extensions hereto. Residents requiring information from the Department are directed to utilize the Department's website <https://www.sarpd.com>; emergency calls 911; and non-emergency calls (570) 992-9911.

b. All committee meetings of the Stroud Area Regional Police Commission will be held electronically. The chairs of the committees shall be responsible for establishing each committee's protocol for calling into the meeting. The Commission shall continue to meet at its regularly scheduled dates and times in accordance with Pennsylvania law as it currently exists or may be modified.

c. The Department's Right-to-Know Office shall be open but walk-in requests from the public will not be accepted and all right-to-know requests shall be submitted electronically through the Department's website, U.S. Postage Service, or other delivery services (e.g., Federal Express or United Parcel Service). The Department's Right-to-Know Officer is directed to follow

guidance of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Open Records Office in responding to right-to-know requests during the pendency of this emergency.

d. The following are deemed essential services of the Department and shall remain open but with a schedule as proposed by the SARPD Chief:

- i. police services;
- ii. essential police support services.

e. The following policies are adopted as policies of the Stroud Area Regional Police Commission and shall remain in effect until terminated, modified, shortened, or extended pursuant to this Declaration or by further action of the governing body:

- i. SARPD COVID-19 Teleworking Policy;
- ii. SARPD COVID-19 Personnel Use Policy;
- iii. SARPD COVID-19 Response Policy.

f. The WHEREAS provisions are incorporated into this Declaration of Disaster Emergency as an integral part of this Declaration and shall serve as the basis for all actions taken under this Declaration.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that this Declaration shall take effect immediately for the period of March 27, 2020 through 11:59 p.m. on May 13, 2020, unless further modified, extended, or terminated by action of the Commission.

BY SEAL of the Stroud Area Regional Police Commission as authorized this 27<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020.

ATTEST:

  
~~Elizabeth S. ...~~ Secretary  
Mary Pat QUINN

STROUD AREA REGIONAL POLICE  
COMMISSION

By:   
Armand Martinelli, Chair