

Introduced – April 16, 2020

Passed – April 16, 2020

Effective – April 16, 2020

## ORDINANCE NO. 507

**AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE DECLARING AN EXTENSION OF THE STATE OF EMERGENCY IN THE TOWN OF ST. MICHAELS AS A RESULT OF COVID-19 INITIALLY DECLARED PURSUANT TO EMERGENCY ORDINANCE NO. 506; PROVIDED THAT THE TITLE OF THIS EMERGENCY ORDINANCE SHALL BE DEEMED A FAIR SUMMARY, AND GENERALLY RELATING TO A CONTINUING STATE OF EMERGENCY IN THE TOWN OF ST. MICHAELS.**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Public Safety § 14-111, the principal executive officer of a political subdivision may declare a local state of emergency; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Local Gov't § 5-202 and § C-19(A) of the Charter of the Town of St. Michaels, The Commissioners of St. Michaels (the “Town Commissioners”) are authorized and empowered to pass ordinances which are not contrary to the Constitution or laws of the State of Maryland or to the provisions of the Charter for the preservation of peace and order, for securing persons and property from violence, danger, or destruction, and for the protection and promotion of the health, safety, comfort, convenience, welfare, and happiness of the residents of and visitors in the Town of St. Michaels (the “Town”); and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Local Gov't § 5-209(c) and §§ C-19(B)(27) and (46) of the Charter, the Town Commissioners are authorized and empowered to pass ordinances to protect and preserve the health of the Town and its inhabitants, to prevent the introduction of contagious diseases into the Town, to establish quarantine regulations, and to authorize the removal and confinement of persons having contagious or infectious diseases, subject to the powers and duties of the State Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the County Board of Health, or any public general or local law relating to the subject of health, and to establish quarantine regulations in the interests of public health; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 18, 2020, the Town Commissioners passed Ordinance No. 506, entitled “An Emergency Ordinance to Declare a State of Emergency in the Town of St. Michaels as a Result of COVID-19” (“Emergency Ordinance No. 506”) pursuant to the foregoing authority, the Declaration of State of Emergency and Existence of a Catastrophic Health Emergency declared by the Governor of Maryland on March 5, 2020, and the Proclamation on Declaring a National Emergency Concerning the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Outbreak issued by the President of the United States on March 13, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, Emergency Ordinance No. 506 took effect immediately upon passage on March 18, 2020 pursuant to § C-15 of the Charter; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Public Safety § 14-111(b)(1), a local state of emergency declared by the principal executive officer of a political subdivision may not continue or be renewed for longer than 30 days except with the consent of the governing body of the political subdivision; and

**WHEREAS**, the number of cases of COVID-19 throughout the State of Maryland, including in Talbot County, have increased significantly since the Town Commissioners declared a state of emergency pursuant to Emergency Ordinance No. 506; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 30, 2020, the Governor of Maryland issued Executive Order No. 20-03-30-01 entitled “Amending and Restating the Order of March 23, 2020, Prohibiting Large Gatherings and Events and Closing Senior Centers, and all Non-Essential Businesses and Other Establishments, and Additionally Requiring all Persons to Stay at Home,” which, in part, requires all individuals living in the State of Maryland to stay in their homes or places of residence, prohibits gatherings of more than ten people, and closes all non-essential businesses, organizations, establishments, and facilities, with certain exceptions; and

**WHEREAS**, the public health catastrophe and public safety emergency created by the COVID-19 outbreak will persist beyond April 17, 2020;

**WHEREAS**, the Town Commissioners deem it in the interest of the public health, welfare, and safety of the citizens of the Town, and for the good government of the Town, to enact this Emergency Ordinance extending the current state of emergency and to take the actions as described herein.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED, PROCLAIMED, AND DECLARED**, by The Commissioners of St. Michaels that, in accordance with the authority granted by the laws of the State of Maryland and the Charter of the Town of St. Michaels, and pursuant to any and all authority vested to The Commissioners of St. Michaels, including but not limited to § 14-111 of the Public Safety Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, **THAT A STATE OF EMERGENCY AND CATASTROPHIC HEALTH EMERGENCY EXISTS IN THE TOWN OF ST. MICHAELS.**

**AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, PROCLAIMED, AND DECLARED** that:

1. **Publication and Duration:**

- a. This Emergency Ordinance shall be promptly publicized.
- b. A copy of this Emergency Ordinance be filed with the chief local records-keeping agency.
- c. This Emergency Ordinance is effective for a period of 30 days following its passage. It is possible, however, that the state of emergency declared hereunder will continue for more than 30 days, in which case the Town Commissioners, sitting as the governing body of the Town, may consent to and extend such emergency for additional periods of time as they deem necessary in accordance with § 14-111 of the Public Safety Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland.

2. **Federal and State Aid:** The Town Commissioners hereby request and authorize the receipt of all available Federal, State, and County aid, resources, and assistance to protect the public health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the Town pursuant to Title 14 (Emergency Management) of the Public Safety Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, and in accordance with all applicable State and local emergency plans.

3. **Emergency Powers and Appropriations:** All emergency powers of the Town Commissioners and the Town Manager under the Charter and State law are hereby enabled.

4. **Procurement:** All procurements and purchases needed to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak may be authorized in accordance with Article V of the Charter.

5. **Closure of Public Buildings:** Effective March 18, 2020, all Town government buildings shall be closed to the public while this Emergency Ordinance is in effect.

6. **Extension of Licenses:** The expiration date of all licenses and permits issued by the Town that would otherwise:

- a. Expire by the later of (i) April 30, 2020 or (ii) the termination of the Governor's state of emergency; and
- b. Be renewable during such period noted in Paragraph 6.a. under applicable laws and regulations

are hereby extended to the later of (i) May 31, 2020, or (ii) within 30 days after the date by which the Governor's state of emergency is terminated and the catastrophic health emergency is rescinded.

7. **Suspension or Postponement of Deadlines**: The Town Commissioners are hereby authorized, upon a finding that the suspension or postponement will not endanger the public health, welfare, or safety, and upon recommendation of the Town Manager, suspend indefinitely or postpone to a date certain the effect of any legal or procedural deadline, due date, time of default, time expiration, period of time, or other time of an act or event described within any local statute, rule, or regulation that the Town Commissioners administer. At the discretion of the Town Commissioners, any such suspension or postponement hereunder shall not be for a period of more than 30 days after the date by which the Governor's state of emergency is terminated and the catastrophic health emergency is rescinded.
8. **Board and Commission Meetings**: All Town board and commission meetings are hereby suspended, subject to the following:
  - a. For any agenda item deemed critical by agreement of the board or commission chair and the Town Manager and subject to available technology, the board or commission may hold a meeting to address such critical item, provided that the meeting shall be conducted virtually via teleconference, live streaming, or any other available technology that will allow, in the view of the Town Attorney's Office, the necessary parties to participate and the public to observe in real time to the extent required by law.
  - b. To the extent a board's or commission's rules of procedure require the presence of a physical quorum of the body to conduct business, such rule may be suspended upon concurrence by the Town Attorney's Office and subject to available technology allowing the body to communicate virtually in real time.
9. **Town Commissioner Meetings**: All Town Commissioner meetings are hereby suspended, subject to the following:
  - a. For any future agenda item deemed critical by agreement of the President of the Town Commissioners and the Town Manager and subject to available technology, the Commissioners may hold a meeting to address such critical item, provided that the meeting shall be conducted virtually via teleconference, live streaming, or any other available technology that will allow, in the view of the Town Attorney's Office, the necessary parties to participate and the public to observe in real time to the extent required by law.
10. **Supersedes Inconsistent Local Law**: This Emergency Ordinance and the orders herein shall supersede any inconsistent or conflicting local law, rule, or regulation.
11. **Further Amendments**: This Emergency Ordinance may be revised or amended from time to time as needed in the discretion of the Town Commissioners.

**AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED AND ENACTED**, that this Emergency Ordinance is not intended to become a part of the Town Code, and shall take effect immediately upon passage,

having been read at one (1) meeting of The Commissioners of St. Michaels and having been passed by a yea and nay vote of The Commissioners of St. Michaels.

Jean R. Weisman (SEAL)  
Jean R. Weisman  
Town Clerk\Manager

HAVING BEEN READ for the first time and passed by a yea and nay vote of The Commissioners of St. Michaels at a Public Hearing of The Commissioners of St. Michaels held on this 16<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2020, at 9:00 o'clock a.m., in the meeting room of the Town Office, St. Michaels, Maryland.

Boos - \_yea\_  
Bibb - \_yea\_  
Harrod - \_yea\_  
Windon - \_yea\_  
Glackin - \_yea\_

I HEREBY CERTIFY that this Emergency Ordinance was passed by a yea and nay vote of The Commissioners of St. Michaels on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2020.

ATTEST:

THE COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MICHAELS

Jean R. Weisman  
Jean R. Weisman, Town Clerk/Manager

BY: William E. Boos (SEAL)  
William E. Boos, President

I HEREBY CERTIFY that an exact copy of the above Ordinance was posted from the 17<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2020, at 8:30 o'clock a.m. to the 5<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2020, at 4:30 o'clock p.m., on the bulletin board at the Town Office in St. Michaels, Maryland, and that a summary of the above Ordinance, the date of its passage, its effective date, and the fact that the entire text of the Ordinance may be read on the bulletin board of the Town Office, St. Michaels, Maryland, for at least twenty (20) days following the passage, has been published at least once each week for two (2) consecutive weeks following the passage of said Ordinance in a newspaper having general circulation in the Town of St. Michaels.

Date: 5/20/20, 2020

Jean R. Weisman (SEAL)  
Jean R. Weisman, Town Clerk\Manager