



Angela D. Alsobrooks
County Executive

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

June 30, 2021

The Honorable Calvin S. Hawkins, II
Chairman
Prince George's County Council
County Administration Building
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772

Dear Chair Hawkins:

Enclosed for the County Council's consideration is a Resolution that would extend the County's declaration of emergency necessitated by the outbreak of the Coronavirus ("COVID-19"). State law, specifically Public Safety Article 14-111(b)(1), requires the consent of the governing body if an emergency declaration is continued or renewed. The most recent declaration passed by the County Council, Council Resolution 48-2021, expires July 9, 2021.

Recently, there have been public comments which suggest that the Governor of the State of Maryland has lifted the declaration of emergency for the State (SOE) and the catastrophic health emergency ("CHE"). While the County has for several months declared a state of emergency utilizing its authority under the County Code, it is necessary to address this issue of whether the Governor has terminated the emergency declarations for the State.

Governor's Order #21-06-15-01, dated June 15, 2021, keeps the SOE and CHE in effect; however, the order terminates some specific orders either July 1 or August 15. The very first paragraph states:

WHEREAS, A state of emergency and catastrophic health emergency was proclaimed on March 5, 2020, and renewed on March 17, April 10, May 6, June 3, July 1, July 31, August 10, September 8, October 6, October 29, November 25, and December 23, 2020, and January 21, February 19, March 18, April 16, May 12 and June 12, 2021, to control and prevent the spread of COVID-19 within the state, ***and the state of emergency and catastrophic health emergency still exists;*** [emphasis added]

Moreover, section III.a states:

This Order remains effective until after termination of the state of emergency and the proclamation of the catastrophic health emergency has been rescinded, or until rescinded, superseded, amended, or revised by additional orders.

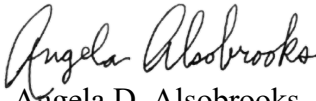
The Honorable Calvin S. Hawkins, II
June 30, 2021
Page 2

This interpretation, that the Governor has not lifted the SOE or the CHE for the State, has been confirmed by the Office of Law with the Office of the Attorney General.

The enclosed resolution is presented for consideration by the County Council. The Executive Branch will continue to update and work in partnership with the Council during this emergency period.

The County Council's favorable consideration of this legislation is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact Rhonda Weaver, County Attorney, at 301-952-5225.

Sincerely,


Angela D. Alsobrooks
County Executive

Enclosures